



MORAGA

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Corliss Drive Safe Routes to School gets underway



Photo courtesy Public Works Department

Corliss Drive/Wakefield Drive intersection near Los Perales Elementary School

By Vera Kochan

Parents of children attending Los Perales Elementary School will be glad to hear that the town of Moraga continues to take proactive steps to ensure the safety of the school's students. The Safe Routes to School engineering design project includes the development of design options for a safer route along Corliss Drive where a lack of sidewalks and dangerous roadway curves have become part of the problem.

Corliss Drive is not the only street to have safety issues for young pedestrians and bicyclists. Sullivan Drive curves and turns into Corliss which then intersects at Wakefield Drive just northwest of Los Perales. Arroyo Drive is also included within the problematic corridor.

According to a Dec. 7 staff report to the town council by

Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp and Senior Civil Engineer Bret Swain, there's a lot to take into consideration for this project. "On Corliss Drive, there are existing below and above ground utility structures, driveways, landscaping and tree, and accessibility (ADA) requirements that limit cost effective opportunities to install a sidewalk. The existing conditions may require the acquisition of additional Right-of-Way (ROW), relocation of utilities (in particular, power poles), and construction of retaining walls, to add a pedestrian sidewalk."

The report continues, "One option to add a sidewalk, assumes the removal of portions of the curbside parking along the street which would impact the adjacent property owner's capacity to park vehicles near their property. Another option is to remove a travel lane to provide space for pedestrian

walkways or multi-use pathway."

An additional possibility is to remove one of the travel lanes along Corliss and Sullivan and convert it into a one-way street. This is not a popular option since it would increase the distance parents would need to drive in order to drop off or pick up their children. Stakeholder and public feedback will be sought in order to meet everyone's expectations. This input will help to shape the final design process.

Staff requested approval from the town council to award a Professional Services Agreement for Engineering Services to Sandis Civil Engineers, Surveyors and Planners (Oakland, Calif.) after four prospective engineering firms bid on the project. Staff's decision was based on: completeness of response; project understanding and approach; proposed scope of services; qualification and specific experience of key team members; experience with similar types of projects; schedule and capacity to provide qualified personnel; and references/satisfaction of previous clients.

The council unanimously approved a resolution awarding an agreement to Sandis for an amount up to \$183,795 (design) and \$27,615 (15% contingency) for a total amount not to exceed \$211,410 for the Corliss Drive Safe Routes to School (CIP 21-404). An amount of \$11,410 will be appropriated from Fund 210 - Measure J.

Reorganization of new Town Council sees Sos as mayor, Onoda as vice mayor

By Vera Kochan

Moraga's Dec. 14 reorganization of the town council was a cordial experience with much goodwill expressed through various speeches and comments by all involved.

Although outgoing Council Member Sona Makker's appointed term was short, her heartfelt exiting comments were that of a seasoned veteran. "While many of my views shifted because of working with all of you through gaining practical experience sitting on the other side and hearing how difficult and challenging it can be to make decisions, I think that my perspective evolved and shifted by my approach."

"I have tried to maintain the same, which is that I hope that I could bring a leadership style of focusing and an eye towards kindness, listening, and progress; and I think all of you allowed me to continue to do that and be myself, while also continuing to learn." Makker also hinted that she is not done serving the community and hopes to do so in the future.

Outgoing Council Member Mike McCluer began his comments with a lot of advice to incoming council members Kerry Hillis and David Shapiro. He also thanked Moraga's many organizations for their wealth of information during his tenure. Also, "Thank you most of all fellow colleagues, town council

members and staff. I want to thank the most important group being Moraga residents. The favorite part of my job is talking to the residents on issues, concerns, complaints, and opportunities."

McCluer added, "I came to this job with my principal character and values, and I'm pleased to leave with them intact. I've done my best to be a servant-leader. Someone who leads to serve residents - not their own personal agendas, interests, or politics. Thank you, Moraga. Goodnight and God Bless."

After the administration of the Oath of Office to Hillis and Shapiro, the new council members were seated at the dais.

Before the formality of stepping down as mayor, Steve Woehleke wanted to express a few words to the assembled. "This year has been a bit unusual. We split the year. It wasn't necessarily a very smooth operation that we did, but I think that the year has worked out very well (my perspective). I have very much enjoyed working in our split year - Renata [Vice Mayor Sos] and I. I've found that both of us, especially at least her, practiced professionalism, are respectful of each other, good at communication, and we, to a great extent, operate based upon intent. Not only just the letter of whatever we're dealing with, but what's the intent. I found that historically that's equally important as what the letter says."

Woehleke proceeded to nominate Sos as the next mayor of Moraga. With a unanimous vote Sos, as the new mayor, made a few comments. "This year has been just a shining example of how collaboration, collegiality, professionalism, mutual respect, and the shared commitment to doing what's best for the residents of this town really can serve us well. It's been absolutely delightful working with you [Woehleke]."

Sos then nominated Council Member Teresa Onoda as vice mayor which was another unanimous decision. Onoda's comments regarding her new position were short and to the point, "Thank you."

As a newly elected council member Hillis stated, "I want to thank the residents of Moraga. I really appreciate the responsibility and the trust that you have given me, and I commit that I am going to do my best to live up to that over the next four years."

Shapiro likewise thanked those who voted for him. "I look forward to working with everybody. I promise to be a good listener. I promise to be sensitive to all points of view, not to do too much talking, and I hope that at the end of my term, that all of the nice things that you all said to the people who were leaving, you'll say about me: that I was diligent, and that I thought things through, and that I came to good decisions. Thank you."

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