

St. Mary's Road on track for multimodal safety improvements



St Mary's Road Multimodal Improvements Project

Photo courtesy of Moraga Public Works Dept.

By Vera Kochan

Since 2007, the St. Mary's Road/Bollinger Canyon Road and St. Mary's Road/Rheem Boulevard intersections have been on the town's radar with respect to safety concerns and traffic flow issues. A dangerous S-curve, poor visibility, the difficulty of merging into traffic during rush hour, in addition to pedestrian/bicyclist safety have all combined to make this small stretch of road a commuter's nightmare.

Three separate studies have been conducted to determine possible improvements, the last one coming from an outside engineering consultant firm whose submitted possibilities included: an all-way stop control; a two-way stop control; a traditional traffic signal control; a roundabout traffic control or mini-roundabout traffic control; or leave everything as is.

The Town conducted several public outreach meetings that included questionnaire feedback, and residents were divided on their opinions with regards to roundabouts versus traffic signals/stop signs. The public did support improvements, especially if the project was primarily grant funded.

According to the Aug. 23 staff report by Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp, roundabouts are no longer part of the project. While a traffic signal with safety lighting will be installed at the St. Mary's Road/Rheem Boulevard intersection, "at the Bollinger Canyon Road intersection,

there are two options being considered for improvements, with both options requiring the widening of the intersection footprint," stated Knapp. "Option 1 includes roadway widening to allow for the addition of a southbound left turn pocket from St. Mary's onto Bollinger Canyon Road, and Option 2 builds upon Option 1 with a traffic signal. In both the north and south approaches to the Bollinger Canyon Road intersection, medians are proposed to channelize and slow traffic."

As a major roadway within town, the project qualifies for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) grant funding and is the highest-ranked Contra Costa County project with respect to safety and congestion relief scoring criteria. This decision was based on the four applications received by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) totaling approximately \$40.3 million in STIP funding requests. Moraga had submitted a \$9.993 million STIP project funding application with a town match of \$1.295 million, and on July 20, the review committee approved to fully fund the grant request. The request funds are expected to become available starting Fiscal Year 2027-28, after the Sept. 20 CCTA Board meeting officially approves the recommendations.

During Knapp's Aug. 23 presentation to the Town Council, he received high praise from its members for his efforts to secure the STIP grant for Moraga, and with a

unanimous vote, was authorized the \$25,000 for Initial Administrative Services Funding during FY 2023-24 and another \$25,000 for FY 2024-25 for the project [CIP Project No. 23-417].

Pear and Wine Festival
Sept. 30 11am-3pm
 Moraga Commons
 Moragarec.com



GLEAM
 VETERAN

LAMORINDA DO YOUR TRASH CANS SMELL?

Call or Text
510-800-BINS
 GleamMyCan.Com

- 50% off first cleaning
- Disinfect & Deodorize Your Trash Bins!

Bay Area Greenscapes, Inc.
 Synthetic Grass - Installation - Landscaping

1801 Saint Mary's Rd. Moraga, CA 94556
Phone (925) 819-2100

- Design & Consulting
- New Landscape Installation • Re-Landscape & Remodel
- Residential & Commercial • Green Landscape Options
- Maintenance & Clean Ups • Synthetic Lawn Installation

CA Lic# 938445

CHROMA
 #PEOPLEFOCUSEDREALTY

CURB number PAINTING

PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECT | CHROMA REALTY SERVES THE COMMUNITY

When you need first responders, they need to be able to find you!

As a Realtor and member of this community, I'd like to fix the poor state of neighborhood curb markings.

Did you know a fire can double in size every 60 seconds it isn't contained? Or that Lamorinda residents are not immune to home-related crime? In the event that an injury or heart attack occurs in the home, seconds matter.

Community service is my primary mode of outreach. Let me help your home become more visible... curb appeal starts at your curb (and so does property maintenance).

All I ask in return is that you let me begin the road to being liked and trusted as a neighborhood Real Estate professional. Enter the URL on your personal computer or use this QR code to be directed to my sign-up/scheduling page.

chromarealty.com/curbpainting



AMAZON, UBER & DOOR DASH appreciate it too!



Kristina
925.567.4328