

**County of Santa Clara – Roads & Airports Department
Infrastructure Section - Bridge Unit
Community Meeting on 04/05/2021
Questions and Answers**

Project Name: Alamitos Creek Bridge #37C0159 Replacement Project

County staff Attendances: Rocelia Kmak, Solomon Tegegne, Luke Qu, Barry Ng, and Clarence Salim.

Question: Will the transcript of this community meeting be provided to residents who cannot join the meeting?

Answer: Meeting's slides are posted to the website.

Question: Did I miss why you wouldn't you just leave the old bridge open during the length of construction?

Answer: The Contractor needs to utilize at least one bridge lane as a staging area during construction with the existing bridge site constraints.

Question: With complete closure what about residents?

Answer: Based on feedback from the community living in the vicinity of the project location, the County will decide between one lane closed and complete closure.

Question: We own the winery 1 mile from the bridge, a closure of the bridge is a non-starter. This would cut us off completely from new Almaden.

Answer: County will consider this input from Alamitos Vineyard for the decision on bridge closure.

Question: Hi there, I really appreciate this replacement as there is a high probability of earthquake in next 50 years, however, can we avoid option 2 (complete closure) in case fire access is needed over the one open lane?

Answer: County will consider this input for the decision on bridge closure.

Question: Please do not close the bridge. We need to get to New Almaden daily.

Answer: County will consider this input for the decision on bridge closure.

Question: Is there a detailed project schedule available?

Answer: At the time of this meeting, County is in the process of awarding the Contract. The project schedule will be posted online after the Contractor is awarded and the Contractor submits the project schedule.

Question: Can we please have option 1 for traffic control.

Answer: County will consider this input for the decision on bridge closure.

Question: This is also a safety issue, one egress point. We have a history of fires here; one way out is a significant safety issue.

Answer: County will consider this input for the decision on bridge closure.

Question: I agree about the safety issue comment. How are you going to address evacuations during an emergency?

Answer: With a partial closure option, one bridge lane will be always open to the public and emergency usage. With a complete closure option, the bridge is always open to emergency usage.

Question: Can I get a copy of the plans? Or are they on the website?

Answer: The meeting slides are posted to the website.

Question: Option 1 is needed for traffic control - there are people that access beyond the bridge from New Almaden and from a fire perspective we need multiple ways in and out - granted one lane isn't great.

Answer: County will consider this input for the decision on bridge closure.

Question: Where is the location of the bridge construction yard located? Will supply trucks be coming through town?

Answer: One lane of the existing bridge will be the main staging area. An additional staging area is provided at the beginning at the intersection of Harry Road and Almaden Expressway, the first 150 feet by the full width of the area. The supply trucks will be coming through town. County will monitor pre- and post-construction road conditions and communicate with Maintenance Unit on restoring any damaged roads to pre-construction conditions.

Question: Will you ensure that all construction traffic of all kinds observes the 25 MPH speed limit as they pass through town to and from the job daily?

Answer: Current Almaden Road Engineering and Traffic Study (ETS) allows for radar enforcement of existing posted 25 mph "Radar Enforcement" speed limit by CHP. The department will coordinate with the contractor to make sure they follow the posted speed limit.

Question: Speeding is a huge problem in New Almaden. I would like to discuss how the bridge will impact speeding without the curve which currently slows down the speeders.

Answer: Bridge structure will be constructed per plan and designed using current State standards. Bridge structures are not traffic calming devices. When bridge work is completed, Department Traffic Engineering Office (TEO) staff will conduct a study (ETS) to determine the warranted speed limit on Alamos Road from Hicks Road to Almaden Road, and take additional action as needed.

Question: Did I miss an elevation slide of the new bridge? Does it still look like what was designed in 2013?

Answer: The final design is much similar to the design in 2013 regarding elevation.

Question: Also, I saw that there would be a shoulder on each side of the bridge for a bike lane. Can you please confirm? There are so many cyclists that use the bridge.

Answer: Yes, there will be a shoulder on each side of the bridge which can be used for pedestrians and cyclists.

Question: Have the CEQA notices been posted in our community?

Answer: Yes, CEQA notices were posted per the requirements a few years ago.

Question: How long is the proposed closure of the bridge?

Answer: The project is projected to be completed by the end of the calendar year 2022. Bridge closure would take place between April and October during construction operations.

Question: Will there be any activity at the bridge location prior to June?

Answer: Environmental surveys for different species of wild animals will take place before June. Temporary Construction Easement (TCE) surveys will take place closer to the start of construction. Notifications will be given to impacted property owners before the TCE surveys.

Question: We live on the Hicks Road side of the bridge with multiple trailers that won't make the journey over Hicks Road.

Answer: County will consider this input for the decision on bridge closure.

Question: What are the plans to slow down the speeders as they go over the new bridge? Because the new bridge is going to be straight the old bridge slows the speeders down.

Answer: Bridge structure will be constructed per plan and was designed using current State standards. Bridge structures are not traffic calming devices. When bridge work is completed, Department TEO staff will conduct ETS to determine the warranted speed limit on Alamos Road from Hicks Road to Almaden Road, and take additional action as needed.

Question: If you have not written a contract yet, can you put in a carrot and a stick to reward safe driving or penalize constant speeding by Contractor and subcontractor.

Answer: County will consider this input and work with the Contractors to ensure that their employees follows all traffic safety regulations.

Question: Can you address the question of why the project was delayed and then canceled initially? As I mentioned in my comments I was told by the county and ATT that the creek had to stop flowing prior to the construction proceeding this directly delayed replacement of copper cables and installation of fiber to our property. When the bridge project was canceled, we were able to proceed — what's preventing this from being an issue now? ..note the creek hasn't stopped flowing in recorded history of new Almaden.

Answer: The project was canceled due to the unfulfillment of Environmental Permits and unanticipated creek water level. County has revised the creek water control system and obtained all permits with the condition of the flowing creek.

Question: Looking forward to the traffic calming plan to mitigate the increased speed that will come with the new bridge. Would like to see a comparison of the traffic survey done for the project back in 2013 vs. today given that Mt. Umunhum has since opened in 2018.

Answer: TEO staff did not conduct survey for Alamitos Road in 2013. From County Roadbook, Alamitos Road average daily traffic shows 350 vpd (2003), 280 vpd (2011), 360 vpd (2015). After the bridge is completed, Department TEO staff will conduct ETS to determine the warranted speed limit on Alamitos Road from Hicks Road to Almaden Road.

Question: The County agreed to set 35 MPH between bridge and town. Issue of speeding in New Almaden is separate issue and needs to be kept separate.

Answer: There is no existing agreement. After bridge is completed, Department TEO staff will conduct ETS to determine the warranted speed limit on Alamitos Road from Hicks Road to Almaden Road.

Question: Just a follow up, I mentioned my comment but I'd like to know the mitigation for our fiber and telephone service through construction. This affects anyone past the bridge as the service goes under the bridge.

Answer: AT&T is on board with the County for this project. AT&T has temporary relocated its utilities and will attach them back to the new bridge.

Question: When can we expect a meeting to discuss a speeding plan?

Answer: Nothing is planned at this time. The Department will conduct new ETS after the bridge opening and take additional action as needed based on the results of the ETS.

Question: Can any technologies or cameras apply on utility poles near the bridge location to capture speeders' license plates? Will the County issue warning letters to the speeders?

Answer: Current Almaden Road Engineering and Traffic Study (ETS) allows for radar enforcement of existing posted 25 mph "Radar Enforcement" speed limit by CHP. The Department will coordinate with Contractor to ensure posted speed limit is followed.

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