



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** John Ristow

**SUBJECT:** TRAFFIC SAFETY AND  
STREET IMPROVEMENTS

**DATE:** June 5, 2020

Approved

Date: 6/5/2020

## BACKGROUND

The Mayor's March Budget Message for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, as approved by City Council on March 17, 2020, contains policy direction and a framework of priorities for the City Manager to use in the development of the Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets. One of the directives included prioritizing Traffic Safety and Street Improvements by increasing funding by \$2 million, and designating these funds for traffic calming, traffic mitigation, and safety-enhancing improvement projects in targeted neighborhoods and/or major roads. The City Manager was also directed to communicate to City Council to identify the funded projects, and to use a data-driven approach that focuses on investments that can more substantially reduce the risk of harm to pedestrians and cyclists.

## ANALYSIS

The 2020-2021 Proposed Capital Budget includes funding of \$73.4 million in 2020-2021 and the 2021-2025 Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes funding of \$164.3 million over the five-year CIP targeted towards providing safe streets for all modes of travel and balancing transportation by investing in traffic safety and efficiency and local multimodal improvements. When compared to the \$57.0 million in the 2019-2020 Adopted Capital Budget and \$144.8 million over the five-year 2020-2024 Adopted CIP, this funding increase is in excess of the \$2 million directed in the Mayor's March Budget Message and is primarily attributed to increased levels of grant funding and significant increases to Building and Structure Construction Tax revenue estimated to be received in 2019-2020.

The highlighted Vision Zero projects are occurring on various Priority Safety Corridors that experience a higher incidence of fatalities and severe injuries (also referred to as Killed or Severely Injured (KSI)) due to traffic collisions. An extensive review of traffic collision data is performed by DOT's Traffic Safety Division to inform where traffic safety mitigations and improvements are needed or should be prioritized, and to support the collaborative work between DOT and the Police Department to inform KSI-reduction enforcement strategies. The insights

gained from 2019 Vision Zero data review was presented to the Transportation and Environment Committee in November 2019, and further detailed in the staff report<sup>1</sup>. The City Council-approved Vision Zero Action Plan provides further guidance on investments needed to reduce severe injuries and traffic fatalities on City roadways. In addition to traffic safety data, land use and socio-economic data, City Council policies and priorities, and sustainability initiatives like Climate Smart goals are typical data sets used by staff to identify viable and competitive projects for State and Federal grant funding consideration.

Highlighted new projects in the Proposed 5-year CIP include the following:

- **Willow-Keyes Complete Streets** **\$ 12.9 million**  
This project is grant funded through the State’s Active Transportation Program (\$12.9 million) and approximately \$7.1 million that has been requested through the Valley Transportation Authority 2016 Measure B – not yet awarded – for a total project cost of approximately \$20 million. The project is located along the Willow - Keyes corridor from SR-87 to 3<sup>rd</sup> street. This corridor connects and serves numerous disadvantaged communities to local and regional destinations within central San Jose, such as schools, churches, commercial businesses, recreational trails, and the City bike network. The project will enhance safety for all modes of travel. Improvements will include travel lane reductions, bulb-outs at major intersections, closure of sidewalk and bike lane gaps, reconfiguration of two complex intersections, and traffic signal modifications at various intersections. The project will also include landscape enhancement - including trees, enhanced existing crosswalks, enhancing existing bike lanes with buffers and green enhancement at the conflict zones at signalized intersections, and upgrading ramps to be ADA compliant. The project is anticipated to start design in 2021.
- **Better Bikeways San Fernando** **\$ 9.6 million**  
This project is grant funded through the State’s Active Transportation Program. The project will enhance safety for people biking and walking along San Fernando St, between Almaden Blvd and 11<sup>th</sup> St. Improvements will include installation of corner safety islands to slow turning vehicles, ADA-accessible protected intersections to shorten crossing distances, protected bike lanes; narrow travel lanes; and traffic signal upgrades. The project will connect people to homes, employment, education, community and cultural centers, and transit. The project is currently in design. Construction is anticipated to start in summer 2023 and to be completed by summer 2024.
- **Balbach Street Transportation Improvements** **\$ 5.9 million**  
This project is grant funded through the State’s Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities program. This project will construct/upgrade bike and pedestrian safety improvements including: protected Class IV bike lanes, new and upgraded flashing beacons, curb extensions, and enhanced crosswalks. The project will also include urban greening

---

<sup>1</sup> [Link to Vision Zero Action Plan Update to the Transportation and Environment Committee Meeting on November 4, 2019.](#)

improvements that will enhance the natural environment of the project corridor connecting to public transportation stops, along with the purchase of two electric buses for VTA to run on Route 66. These measures will support pedestrian and bicyclist safety and mobility for the housing development that will be constructed at 226 Balbach Street. Design work on the transportation improvements is anticipated to start in 2022.

- **Vision Zero Safety Improvements/Initiatives** **\$ 4.1 million**  
Together with \$500,000 allocated in 2019-2020, this funding will provide for quick build improvements on approximately 11 miles of Vision Zero Priority Safety Corridors (PSC). The 11 miles represent the first-year delivery of the quick build measures included in the Vision Zero Action Plan that was approved by City Council on February 11, 2020; the City's PSC network comprise a total of 56 miles. During the first year, quick build measures will be implemented on Senter Rd, Fruitdale Ave, and McLaughlin Ave, and may include markings, signs, paint, bollards, and minor traffic signal improvements. The targeted improvements will leverage upcoming pavement or Capital Improvement Program projects.
- **Roosevelt Park Transportation Improvements** **\$ 3.8 million**  
This project is grant funded through the State's Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities program. This project will construct/upgrade bike and pedestrian safety improvements including: protected class IV bike lanes, new flashing beacon, curb extension, ADA ramps, and median refuge island. The project will also include urban greening improvements that will enhance the natural environment of the project corridor connecting to public transportation stops, along with the purchase of two electric buses for VTA to run on Route 77. These measures will support pedestrian and bicyclist safety and mobility for the housing development that will be constructed at 21 N. 21<sup>st</sup> St (Roosevelt Park Apartments). Design work on the transportation improvements is anticipated to start in 2022.
- **Vision Zero: Story/Jackson Safety Improvements** **\$ 1.4 million**  
Together with \$300,000 allocated in 2019-2020, this project will implement traffic safety improvements at the Story Rd and Jackson Ave intersection to help improve pedestrian, bicyclist, and vehicular safety. Improvements are anticipated to include curb extensions to shorten pedestrian crossing distances, enhanced visibility of signal heads and crosswalks, and audible accessible pedestrian signals. Both Story Rd and Jackson Ave are Vision Zero Priority Safety Corridors. The project design is anticipated to be completed in the Summer 2021, with construction occurring in 2022.
- **Assessible Pedestrian Signal Safety** **\$ 800,000**  
Combined with the \$200,000 allocated in 2019-2020, this project provides for replacing existing audible pedestrian signals at 174 intersections, over a five-year period, with upgraded accessible pedestrian signals. The upgraded signals will include new required accessibility features, such as vibrotactile feedback buttons and custom voice messaging, and will improve pedestrian safety and accessibility for all, especially for vision-impaired individuals.

- **Monterey Road Safety Improvements** **\$ 600,000**  
This project is grant funded through the Highway Safety Improvement Program. The funds will provide for the installation of new guardrails and the replacement/upgrade of existing guardrails along Monterey Rd, between Skyway Dr and Palm Ave. The new and upgraded guardrail will improve traffic safety along this corridor by better mitigating potential high-speed collisions. Monterey Rd is a Vision Zero Priority Safety Corridors. Construction is anticipated to be completed in 2022.

In addition to the above targeted projects, the proposed CIP includes continued funding for a variety of ongoing projects and initiatives that are focused on improving traffic safety and mobility, with a focus on the pedestrians and bicyclist safety; including the following annual allocations:

- Safety – Pedestrian Improvements \$ 2.24 million
- ADA Sidewalk Accessibility \$ 1.0 million
- Traffic Signal Modifications/Construction \$ 1.0 million
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities \$ 630,000
- Walk n’ Roll \$ 350,000

**COORDINATION**

This memorandum was coordinated with the City Attorney’s Office and the City Manager’s Budget Office.

/s/  
JOHN RISTOW  
Director of Transportation

For questions, please contact Lily Lim-Tsao, DOT Traffic Safety & Operations Deputy Director, at (408) 975-3269.