



Town of Moraga	AGENDA ITEM
New Business	IX. A.

Meeting Date: February 10, 2010

TOWN OF MORAGA

STAFF REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor and Council Members

From: Moraga Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

By: Jill A. Mercurio, Public Works Director/Town Engineer

Subject: Report from the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Regarding Improvements at St. Mary's Road/Rheem Boulevard/Bollinger Canyon and Request for Direction

Request

Receive report from the Town's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) and provide direction to TSAC and staff regarding this segment of St. Mary's Road.

Background

Following up from one of the first neighborhood requests submitted to TSAC in 2007, the Town authorized use of the Lamorinda Fees and Financing Authority (LFFA) transportation impact fees to be spent on studying and/or implementing improvements at the intersection of St. Mary's Road and Rheem Boulevard. Because of its proximity, and its corresponding traffic impacts, the intersection of St. Mary's Road and Bollinger Canyon was also studied.

The Town's transportation engineers, Fehr & Peers, conducted a study and analysis of St. Mary's Road in this area. A copy of the study is in Attachment A.

At the January 7, 2009, TSAC meeting, Town Engineer Jill Mercurio presented the Fehr & Peers findings for the committee. Seven options were evaluated, and the consultant recommended a roundabout at the St. Mary's Road/Rheem Boulevard intersection, and a left-turn pocket on St. Mary's Road at Bollinger Canyon. Approximately ten members of the public attended the meeting. Most

1 of the attendees agreed that the area should be considered for improvements to
2 enhance the safety of the intersections. A number of concerns were brought to
3 TSAC for consideration, including pedestrian safety, roundabout safety, and
4 costs for the alternatives.

5
6 A follow-up report from Fehr & Peers addressed these issues and was presented
7 by Fehr & Peers to TSAC at their March 4, 2009 meeting. A copy of the Fehr &
8 Peers memo is in Attachment B.

9
10 **Discussion**

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12 After the presentations and consideration of the public comments made at the
13 meetings, TSAC has arrived at the following conclusions:

- 14
15 1. The Committee concurs with the consultant's recommendations for
16 installation of a roundabout at St. Mary's Road and Rheem Blvd. and a left
17 turn pocket for vehicles turning from St. Mary's Road into Bollinger
18 Canyon. The cost of this project is estimated to be \$550,000.
19
20 2. Because of the scope and the cost of this project, it is important to get
21 direction from the Town Council before embarking on a project and using
22 valuable Town resources.

23
24 At this time, TSAC is requesting guidance from the Town Council on the direction
25 to take with this project. TSAC believes that this is an area of town that is due for
26 traffic improvements, but is unsure how to proceed at this time due to town
27 financial constraints and general timing.

28
29 In order to consider the direction the Council is being asked to provide, TSAC
30 wanted to highlight the consultant's suggestions for Council. Please refer to the
31 Fehr and Peers report for their complete recommendations.

32
33 TSAC supports these alternatives:

- 34
35 1. **Roundabout at St. Mary's Rd. and Rheem Blvd** with crosswalks to
36 provide access from the college side to the trail. TSAC has learned a lot
37 about roundabouts through this consideration. They have been
38 demonstrated to be a safe and viable alternative to reduce hazards,
39 improve operation and slow speeds.

40
41 The cost of the roundabout is estimated to be about \$500,000.

- 42
43 2. **Left hand turn lane from St. Mary's Rd. south into Bollinger Canyon**
44 **Rd.** According to the consultant, this option would separate left turning
45 vehicles from through traffic that has limited sight distance.

46
47 Staff estimates this work to be under \$50,000 and would involve paving
48 the road shoulders to create enough room for the lanes of traffic.

49
50 Other alternatives considered:

- 1
2 **3. Realignment of Bollinger Canyon Rd.** to meet Rheem Blvd. at St.
3 Mary's Rd in a four leg intersection, eliminating Bollinger Canyon Road
4 entering St. Mary's Road within the dangerous S curve. The intersection
5 could then be controlled by a roundabout or traffic signal. This option
6 would include a structure being built over the creek and possibly require
7 significant environmental mitigation, and involves property not owned by
8 the Town.

9
10 This structure would include bicycle and pedestrian facilities that tie into
11 the Lafayette-Moraga Trail. This is the most expensive option, but may fix
12 the problems in that area and make driving, walking or biking safer.

13
14 The estimated cost for this was \$4 million, \$3 million for the structure and
15 \$1 million for the approaches.

- 16
17 **4. Installation of a three-way stop at St. Mary's Rd. and Rheem Blvd.**
18 This option would cost approximately \$75,000 for installation with
19 advanced warning signs and flashing beacons, but no loop detection.
20 This may not improve safety and will result in additional traffic backups.

21
22 **General Plan Consistency**

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24 Not applicable at this time.

25
26 **Environmental Analysis**

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28 Not applicable at this time.

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30 **Fiscal Impact**

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32 Approximately \$30,000 remains from the LFFA funds allocated to the project.
33 Any options taken forward would require additional funding. Preliminary public
34 outreach as required through the Traffic Calming procedures could be
35 implemented with the remaining funds, regardless of the ultimate resolution of
36 the traffic concerns in the area if directed by Council.

37
38 Full design and construction funding would be needed to implement any of the
39 options.

40
41 **Recommendation(s)**

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43 Staff recommends that Council defer consideration for further activity on this
44 project until the 2010-2011 budget process, at which time the Town Council
45 could determine if this is a project for which the Town should pursue funding. If
46 Town Council decides to pursue funding for the project it could [approve initial](#)
47 [funds for](#) staff to retain a public relations consultant and proceed with the public
48 involvement phase to gather comments and feedback from the community on the
49 various options. The location and universal use of the area by all Moraga

1 residents warrants a comprehensive public involvement process. Given staff
2 resources, consultant assistance would be required to proceed.

3
4 Staff would report back to Council with the results of the public involvement
5 process.

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7 **Report reviewed by: Town Manager**

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9 **Attachments:**

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11 **A.** December 17, 2008 Memo Report from Fehr & Peers to Jill Mercurio re: St.
12 Mary's Road Improvement Evaluation at Rheem Boulevard and Bollinger
13 Canyon Road

14 **B.** January 26, 2009 Memorandum from Fehr & Peers to Jill Mercurio re:
15 Response to Comments Regarding the St. Mary's Road Improvement
16 Evaluation at Rheem Boulevard and Bollinger Canyon Road

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