

**Council Meeting: April 22, 2008****SUBJECT: Adoption of a Work Plan for Kaiser Hospital Access Study - Study Issue****REPORT IN BRIEF**

Kaiser Permanente has asked the City to reconsider a restriction on left turns out of the Kaiser Santa Clara Medical Center facility to Homestead Road. At the November 2007 Study Issue Workshop, Council identified a Kaiser Hospital Access Study as a study to be undertaken in 2008 (See Attachment A.) This report provides a Work Plan for Council consideration, projecting completion of a Kaiser Hospital access study in December, 2008.

**BACKGROUND**

In the early 1990's, when planning for the new Kaiser Medical Center at Lawrence Expressway and Homestead Road was underway, there was much resident concern over traffic and other impacts from the proposed facility on neighborhoods to the north. Early negotiations with Kaiser and Santa Clara did not satisfy Sunnyvale's concerns regarding traffic. In response, because Sunnyvale controls the centerline of Homestead Road, Sunnyvale indicated that it would construct a full median barrier to completely prohibit left turns into or out of the Kaiser facility. The Sunnyvale City Council went so far as to adopt and fund a capital project to construct a median. Kaiser responded by proposing a compromise that would allow left turns into the facility but not out of the facility, as a means to secure Sunnyvale's support for the project. Subsequently, specific Council action taken in 1996 was to "approve a modified median barrier on Homestead Road which would allow left turns into Kaiser Hospital, but continue to preclude left turns from Kaiser Hospital onto Homestead Road." This action followed significant community outreach and numerous public meetings. The prohibition of a left turn onto Homestead Road was specifically intended to minimize impacts to adjacent Sunnyvale neighborhoods. The City did "reserve the right to reconsider its (1996) decision should the nature or intensity of the proposed project be changed." The City retained the capital project to construct the full median for several years until it was certain that the project condition to prohibit left turns out of the facility would be realized. It was then dropped from the capital budget.

The primary medical center facility was recently completed. As the facility neared completion, Kaiser approached the City on several occasions to ask for the left turn prohibition to be removed. Most recently, Kaiser has involved its

membership, and Sunnyvale has received much correspondence requesting a revisiting of this issue. The City has also received much input supporting retention of the prohibition.

At the Council meeting of November 20, 2007, representatives of the new Kaiser Hospital development in Santa Clara spoke of their interest in possible reconfigurations of traffic patterns and/or traffic signalization on Homestead Road as a result of that development. Councilmembers Hamilton, Spitaleri and Lee supported a study issue paper for Council consideration as part of the 2008 Study Issues process.

### **EXISTING POLICY**

#### **Land Use and Transportation Element, 1997:**

C3.2.4, Continue to evaluate transportation impacts from land use proposals at a neighborhood and City-wide level.

C3.1.4 Study and implement physical and operational improvements to optimize roadway and intersection capacities.

N1.5, Support a roadway system that protects residential areas from City-wide and regional traffic.

### **DISCUSSION**

This study would investigate a change in traffic signalization, a left turn onto Homestead Road or reconsideration of traffic patterns in general. The scope of the analysis would include investigation of traffic distribution to and from all access points to the Kaiser facility, and consideration of new access points as an alternative to allowing left turns on Homestead Road or as an augmentation of allowing left turns onto Homestead Road.

The City will retain professional traffic engineering services to conduct the study. Public outreach meetings will be included in the study scope to present findings and collect input. Analysis of existing and modified access alternatives will be conducted. A micro-simulation model is proposed to be used as a primary analysis tool. Issues associated with access alternatives will be identified in addition to the effects of various alternatives on traffic flow patterns.

Overall, project management will be coordinated through the Department of Public Works (DPW). Project management includes the coordination of research and analysis activities, participation of staff in the review process, and overall responsibility for the preparation of the traffic study. The Transportation and Traffic Manager will oversee data collection activities, the

identification of relevant issues, and review of the document. Staff will coordinate participation and distribution to other government agencies such as the City of Santa Clara and the County as appropriate.

The proposed work plan is as follows:

**WORK PLAN**  
**Kaiser Hospital Access Study**  
**FY 2008-09**

<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>	<b>TASK</b>
March, 2008	Preliminary Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft work scope</li> <li>• Identify stakeholders and interested outside agencies</li> <li>• Request for quotations from traffic engineering firms</li> </ul>
April, 2008	City Council consideration of Work Plan
May, 2008	Secure offer of donation from Kaiser Permanente for study costs
June, 2008	Consultant contracting process
August, 2008	Conduct traffic study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect base data</li> <li>• Distribute and assign trips</li> <li>• Collect travel time data</li> <li>• Prepare microsimulation model</li> <li>• Develop and describe access alternatives</li> </ul>
September, 2008	Conduct community meeting to present draft findings
November, 2008	Finalize traffic study and prepare Report to Council
December, 2008	City Council public hearing

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funding will be required to prepare the traffic study. The approved study issue calls for the study to be funded by Kaiser Permanente, and Kaiser has indicated that they will cooperate in this regard. Staff will secure quotations for a study scope of work and then approach Kaiser with a donation request. Should Kaiser opt not to fund the study, staff will return to Council for consideration of an alternate funding source, or whether to proceed with the study.

## **PUBLIC CONTACT**

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall, in the Council Chambers lobby, in the Office of the City Clerk, at the Library, Senior Center, Community Center, and Department of Public Safety; posting the agenda and report on the City's Web site; and making the report available at the Library and the Office of the City Clerk.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Adopt the Work Plan for the Kaiser Hospital Access Study.
2. Approve the Work Plan with modifications.
3. Other action as determined by Council.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends Alternative 1: Adopt the Work Plan for the Kaiser Hospital Access Study as submitted.

This work plan will produce a study of the Kaiser Hospital access issue within calendar year 2008.

Reviewed by:

Marvin A. Rose, Director, Department of Public Works  
Prepared by: Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Manager

Approved by:

Amy Chan  
City Manager

**Attachments**

A. Study Issue Paper: Kaiser Hospital Access Study

## Proposed New Council Study Issue

<b>Number</b>	DPW 20
<b>Status</b>	Above the line
<b>Calendar Year</b>	2008
<b>New or Previous</b>	New
<b>Title</b>	Kaiser Hospital Access Study
<b>Lead Department</b>	Public Works
<b>Element or SubElement</b>	1.0 Land Use and Transportation

### 1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated it?

At the Council meeting of November 20, 2007, representatives of the new Kaiser Hospital development in Santa Clara spoke of their interest in possible reconfigurations of traffic patterns and/or traffic signalization on Homestead road as a result of that development. Councilmembers Hamilton, Spitaleri and Lee supported a study issue paper for Council consideration.

Specific Council action taken in 1996 was to "approve a modified median barrier on Homestead Road which would allow left turns into Kaiser Hospital, but continue to preclude left turns from Kaiser Hospital onto Homestead Road." This action followed significant community outreach and numerous public meetings. The prohibition of a left turn onto Homestead was specifically intended to minimize impacts to adjacent Sunnyvale neighborhoods. The City did "reserve the right to reconsider its (1996) decision should the nature or intensity of the proposed project be changed". This study would investigate a change in traffic signalization, a left turn onto Homestead Road or reconsideration of traffic patterns in general. The scope of the analysis would include investigation of traffic distribution to and from all access points to the Kaiser facility, and consideration of new access points as an alternative to allowing left turns on Homestead Road or as an augmentation of allowing left turns onto Homestead Road, as suggested by Vice-Mayor Hamilton. Detailed historical information is available in RTC's 95-281 and 96-117.

### 2. How does this relate to the General Plan or existing City Policy?

1.0 Land Use and Transportation - Action Statement C3.1.4 Study and implement physical and operational improvements to optimize roadway and intersection capacities.

Specific Council action taken in 1996 was to "approve a modified median barrier on Homestead Road which would allow left turns into Kaiser Hospital, but continue to preclude left turns from Kaiser Hospital onto Homestead Road." RTC's 95-281 and 96-117.

### 3. Origin of issue

<b>Council Member(s)</b>	Hamilton, Spitaleri, Lee
<b>General Plan</b>	
<b>City Staff</b>	
<b>Public</b>	
<b>Board or Commission</b>	none

4. Multiple Year Project? No Planned Completion Year 2008

5. Expected participation involved in the study issue process?

Does Council need to approve a work plan? Yes

Does this issue require review by a Board/Commission? No

If so, which?

Is a Council Study Session anticipated? No

What is the public participation process?

Multiple neighborhood outreach meetings, stakeholder meetings.

6. Cost of Study

Operating Budget Program covering costs

Project Budget covering costs

Budget modification \$ amount needed for study

\$ 50,000

Explain below what the additional funding will be used for

Study of traffic generation, traffic patterns, traffic control warrants, traffic calming. Staff recommends that study costs be funded by Kaiser.

7. Potential fiscal impact to implement recommendations in the Study approved by Council

Capital expenditure range None

Operating expenditure range \$500 - \$50K

New revenues/savings range None

Explain impact briefly

Modification of turn restrictions if left turns are allowed from the Kaiser facility. Fiscal impact could be greater if significant additional neighborhood traffic calming measures are identified.

8. Staff Recommendation

Staff Recommendation None

If 'For Study' or 'Against Study', explain

9. Estimated consultant hours for completion of the study issue

400

Managers

Role	Manager	Hours
Lead	Witthaus, Jack	
	Mgr CY1:	60
	Mgr CY2:	0
	Staff CY1:	60
	Staff CY2:	0

Total Hours CY1: 120

Total Hours CY2: 0

Note: If staff's recommendation is 'For Study' or 'Against Study', the Director should note the relative importance of this Study to other major projects that the Department is currently working on or that are soon to begin, and the impact on existing services/priorities.

Reviewed by

Marv Roe

2/6/08

Department Director

Date

Approved by

Jim Chen

2/12/08

City Manager

Date

### Addendum

**A. Board / Commission Recommendation**

Issue Created Too Late for B/C Ranking

Board or Commission	Rank Rank 1 year ago	Rank Rank 2 years ago
Arts Commission		
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee		
Board of Building Code Appeals		
Board of Library Trustees		
Child Care Advisory Board		
Heritage Preservation Commission		
Housing and Human Services Commission		
Parks and Recreation Commission		
Personnel Board		
Planning Commission		

**Board or Commission ranking comments**

**B. Council**

**Council Rank**                    2  
**Work Plan Review Date** 4/22/2008  
**Study Session Date**        (blank)  
**RTC Date**                        12/2/2008  
**Actual Complete Date**    (blank)  
**Staff Contact**                 Witthaus, Jack