SUBJECT: Resolution – Federal Reclassification of Hendy Avenue

BACKGROUND

In 1956 the Federal government created a roadway classification system that helped to define purpose and subsequent characteristics and standards of roadways. This system also is utilized for determining eligibility for Federal transportation funding aid.

It is unclear when the federal functional classification system for Sunnyvale streets was last updated. In considering roadway repair needs, Public Works staff determined that a section of Hendy Avenue is in need of a pavement overlay. Federal funding has been identified and applied for. However, it was determined that this section of Hendy Avenue was classified by the Federal system as an urban local street, so that it is not currently eligible for funding. This classification is inconsistent with the current configuration and use characteristics of Hendy Avenue. The segment of roadway in question serves as a primary access road to the Northrup Grumman facility and provides secondary access to Home Depot. It collects traffic from these major uses and feeds to Kifer Road and Sunnyvale Avenue, both of which are classified under the Federal Aid system as Minor Arterial streets. These characteristics are appropriate for a major collector designation, and in fact the City General Plan designates the roadway as such. The Federal designation is currently inconsistent with the City’s designation.

To remedy this situation, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requires local agencies to prepare a request form and a City Council resolution supporting reclassification. This will be reviewed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Caltrans, and then be forwarded by Caltrans to the Federal Highway Administration for final disposition. Caltrans staff indicates preliminarily that this section of Hendy Avenue is appropriate for reclassification.

EXISTING POLICY

Land Use and Transportation Element R1.5 - Maintain a functional classification of the street system that identifies Congestion Management Program roadways and intersections, as well as local roadways and intersections of regional significance.
Land Use and Transportation Element C3.7 - Pursue local, state and federal transportation funding sources to finance City transportation capital improvement projects consistent with City priorities.

**DISCUSSION**

Hendy Avenue has been determined to be in need of repair. Federal funds have been identified and allocated to conduct repairs, but the current federal functional classification is out of date with the current use characteristics and configuration of the roadway. Reclassification will allow this roadway segment to be eligible for federal funds. The roadway use characteristics are consistent with Federal and traffic engineering industry definitions of a major collector and the City’s General Plan classifies the segment in question as a collector.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Approval of the attached resolution will support reclassification of a 0.45 mile segment of Hendy Avenue to a category that is eligible for federal funding. Federal funds are available for necessary repairs to this segment of roadway. This constitutes a positive fiscal impact.

**PUBLIC CONTACT**

Public contact was made through posting of the Council agenda on the City’s official notice bulletin board, posting of the agenda and report on the City’s web page, and the availability of the report in the Library and the City Clerk’s Office.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1) Review and approve the attached resolution supporting the Federal reclassification of Hendy Avenue from Kifer Road to Sunnyvale Avenue from urban local street to urban major collector.

2) Do not approve the attached resolution and forego eligibility for Federal transportation improvement aid for this segment of Hendy Avenue.
**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends Alternative #1: Review and approve the attached resolution supporting the Federal reclassification of Hendy Avenue from Kifer Road to Sunnyvale Avenue from urban local street to urban major collector.

The proposed federal reclassification is consistent with the Federal Highway Administration definition for the characteristics of the street; will make the street classification consistent with the City’s General Plan classification; and, will make Hendy Avenue eligible for Federal aid.

Reviewed by:

Kent Steffens, Director of Public Works
Prepared by: Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Manager

Approved by:

Gary Luebbers
City Manager

**Attachment**

Attachment A: Resolution
RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE FEDERAL FUNCTIONAL RECLASSIFICATION OF HENDY AVENUE BETWEEN KIFER ROAD AND SUNNYVALE AVENUE AS AN URBAN MAJOR COLLECTOR

WHEREAS, the City of Sunnyvale Public Works Department staff has reviewed the street network within the City of Sunnyvale; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Traffic Manager has determined that Hendy Avenue, between Kifer Road and Sunnyvale Avenue, meets the Federal Highway Administration Guidelines for Functional Classification as an Urban Major Collector; and

WHEREAS, Hendy Avenue reconstruction has been identified and approved by the City Council for inclusion in the Capitol Improvement Program as a street in need of repair; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) requires a minimum classification of Minor Collector to qualify for federal funding; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) reviews, provides concurrence and presents the proposed change the Federal Highway Administration for approval;

WHEREAS, in discussion with MTC, VTA and Caltrans, they have indicated their initial concurrence with classifying Hendy Avenue as a Urban Major Collector;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE THAT the City of Sunnyvale hereby approves the Federal functional reclassification of Hendy Avenue, between Kifer Road and Sunnyvale Avenue, as an Urban Major Collector Street per the Federal Highway Administration criteria.

Introduced and adopted by the City Council at a regular meeting held on ________, 2012, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: APPROVED:

__________________________________ __________________________________
City Clerk Mayor
(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

________________________________
Michael Martello, Interim City Attorney