

2014 Council Study Issue

DPW 14-16 Forms of Automated Transportation

Lead Department Public Works Department

Sponsor(s) Council Member Davis/Mayor Spitaleri

History: New 1 year ago: 2 years ago:

1. Scope of the Study

a. What are the key elements of the study?

This study would provide an overview of forms of automated transportation and discuss their relevancy for application in Sunnyvale. The study would survey forms of automated transportation and provide descriptions of technology, required infrastructure, operation, costs, examples/status of implementation and other issues and opportunities. Technologies that may be evaluated could include connected vehicles, autonomous vehicles, personal rapid transit such as pod cars, and automated group rapid transit.

b. What precipitated this study?

This study was suggested by Council Member Davis and seconded for consideration by Mayor Spitaleri.

c. Is this a multiple year project? No. Planned Completion Year 2014

2. Fiscal Impact

a. Cost to Conduct Study

i. Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost)

Major Moderate Minor

ii. Amount of funding above current budget required - \$0

Will seek budget supplement Will seek grant funding

iii. Explanation of Cost:

Costs would be limited to City staff time and could be absorbed within the current operating budget.

b. Costs to Implement Study Results

No cost to implement.

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs.

Some cost to implement. Explanation:

3. **Expected participation in the process**

- Council-approved work plan
- Council Study Session
- Board/Commission Review by BPAC, Planning Commission

4. **Staff Recommendation**

a. Position: Drop

b. Explanation:

Presentation of general information on emerging or existing automated technologies would be an interesting exercise for the City to undertake. However, it should be noted that automated guideway infrastructures such as pod cars or group rapid transit are likely to be too expensive to implement in a city like Sunnyvale. Funding construction and operation of such systems is out of the realm of a small City budget. Other technologies such as autonomous vehicles are being developed by the private sector and there is currently no clear role for the City in this process.

The nature of the study as defined is very broad which will limit the depth of information on any one technology. While some value would be gained from completing this study, given limited resources, staff time would be better spent focusing on more immediate community traffic concerns such as managing traffic from the new 49er stadium.

Whether or not this study issue moves forward, in its role to manage City operations, staff will continue to stay abreast of new transportation technologies and evaluate opportunities as they arise. A current example has been an ongoing dialog with Nissan's Sunnyvale based research facility regarding the possible testing of autonomous vehicles in Sunnyvale.

Reviewed By:	Approved By:
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Department Director	City Manager
Date	Date
11/6/14	1-7-14

John