City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

15-0913 **Agenda Date:** 1/29/2016

2016 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER
DPW 16-06

TITLE Utilizing the East Channel to Improve North/South Pedestrian and Bicycle Access

BACKGROUND
Lead Department: Public Works
Support Department: Community Development

Sponsor(s):
Board/Commission: Planning Commission

History:
1 year ago: N/A
2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY
What are the key elements of the study?
This study would look at utilizing the East Channel and other waterways to improve north and south pedestrian and bicycle access, creating something akin to the San Tomas Aquino or Stevens Creek Trails. The East Channel's location in the heart of the City would provide good access, especially in and around Moffett Park.

The study would look at options for design and implementation of a path along East Channel from South of US 101 to Homestead Road, West Channel for Mathilda Avenue to Maude Avenue, and Calabazas Creek from Moffett Park Drive to Central Expressway. The City would work with the Santa Clara County Water District regarding use of the channel for recreational purposes.

What precipitated this study?
Additional development in the City has created a need for more recreational areas, and growth near the East Channel provides a context for adding it to options for the community for that purpose.

Planned Completion Year: 2016

FISCAL IMPACT
Cost to Conduct Study
Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost): Major

Amount of funding above current budget required: $200,000

Funding Source: Will seek budget supplement

Explanation of Cost: The cost will be used for consultant services. The consultant would need to identify additional trail opportunities, beyond what it already proposed under the current East-West channel project. As part of this process they would need to review waterways in Sunnyvale and identify opportunity corridors. The study would also include feasibility, cost, and coordination with the SCVWD and any other property owners. Community outreach would also be required. Staff would need to work with the consultant on every part of the project.

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs.

Explanation of Cost: Costs could include those associated with building and maintaining paths identified in the study (see Staff Recommendation below for more details on the project underway).

EXPECTED PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS

Council-approved work plan: No
Council Study Session: No
Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Position: Drop

Explanation: The City is already working on an East-West Channel trail project. In 2013, the City was awarded a One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) for the construction of the East and West Channel trails. The West Channel trail will extend from Caribbean Drive to Mathilda Avenue, and the East Channel trail will extend from Caribbean Drive to Moffett Park Drive. Combined, the project will provide approximately 1.7 miles of new trails.

The trails are currently being designed as part of the Santa Clara Water District (SCVWD) Sunnyvale East and West Channel Flood Protection Project. The flood protection project is expected to start in 2016 and will be completed in 2017. However, that timeframe could change depending on permitting. In addition, a section of the trail will also be constructed by Moffett Place LLC as part of the development located at 1152 Bordeaux Avenue.

Staff resources should be focused on completion of the current project

Prepared By: Shahid Abbas, Transportation and Traffic Manager
Reviewed By: Manuel Pineda, Director, Public Works
Reviewed By: Kent Steffens, Assistant City Manager
Approved By: Deanna J. Santana, City Manager