



The City of Encinitas:

**FINAL
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN REPORT
La Costa Avenue Pedestrian Path
Case No. CPP-006912-2024**

Neighborhood Meeting: February 26, 2024

The La Costa Avenue Pedestrian Path project consists of the installation of a decomposed granite (DG) pedestrian path along the south parkway of La Costa Ave from N Vulcan Ave to the Interstate 5 Southbound Onramp. The DG path will also be extended south along the east parkway of N Vulcan Ave from La Costa Ave to the end of public improvements slated for construction by a development at 1976 N Vulcan Ave. Total DG path length is approximately 2600 ft.

The neighborhood meeting was held at 6:00 PM on Monday, February 26, 2024, in Encinitas City Hall's Poinsettia Room. The meeting was hosted by Carlos Baldenegro from the City's Engineering Department with Matt Widelski (City) and Ed Walton (Rick Engineering). The meeting began at 6:05 PM, with 25 citizens signing the Sign-in Sheet but maybe more present in the room. Carlos Baldenegro started the meeting by presenting the project's team, a project overview (limits of site), and the typical cross section for the proposed decomposed granite (DG) pedestrian path. The presentation then showed street level images along the project's entire site, identifying what work needed to be done to construct the decomposed granite path. Encroaching private improvements were also pointed out. Citizens were encouraged to ask questions at any time during the presentation. After the presentation more time was devoted for questions and answers, including the use of Google Maps to show areas of the project site of interest with more detail. The meeting concluded at 7:04 PM.

Citizens asked 28 specific questions during the meeting.

Question No. 1: Why is the path only proposed for the south side of the road?

Response: There are constraints on the north side that would make it difficult.

Question No. 2: Is the proposed buffer zone between the traffic lane and the bike path physical or just painted stripes?

Response: Only painted stripes are proposed.

Question No. 3: Are power poles going to be removed?

Response: In general, no. We're trying to avoid them. However, if we can't get the path through without relocating a pole, we will make the request to the utility to relocate it.

Question No. 4: If wall was there before, does it get replaced?

Response: No. Private improvements in the right of way will be removed to construct the DG path and will not be replaced.

Question No. 5: Did City Council approve the project?

Response: Yes, for design and permitting.

Question No. 6: Is City going to seek outside funding?

Response: Yes.

Question No. 7: There was a study to improve La Costa Ave prepared approximately one year ago. If that project goes through, will the new pedestrian path be torn out?

Response: Staff will review any previous studies. This project was identified as a high priority project by the City Council.

Follow up: The CIP Division will coordinate with other City Departments on any future plans for La Costa Ave and will attempt to incorporate the improvements being constructed under this project with any future ones.

Question No. 8: How does this project tie into the larger plan for La Costa Ave?

Response: Will check to see.

Follow up: The CIP Division will coordinate with other City Departments on any future plans for La Costa Ave and will attempt to incorporate the improvements being constructed under this project with any future ones.

Question No. 9: Why DG instead of concrete?

Response: Installing concrete will trigger stormwater mitigation requirements.

Question No. 10: Does Sheridan Rd need to be reconfigured to accommodate the new all-way stop? The roads don't line up.

Response: Reconfiguration of the intersection is not part of this project or the upcoming all-way stop. However, it is being studied as a possible future project.

Question No. 11: When will the all-way stop be constructed at Sheridan Rd?

Response: A citizen mentioned that they were recently informed that it was being installed in mid-March. Staff will confirm.

Follow up: Stop signs were installed on March 11.

Question No. 12: Is DG an ADA compliant surface?

Response: Yes.

Question No. 13: What is the cost comparison between concrete and DG?

Response: Will check to see.

Follow up: Concrete sidewalk costs \$20/SF while DG costs \$7/SF.

Question No. 14: How do we get pedestrians across La Costa Ave to the new DG path?

Response: A new all-way stop is coming to Sheridan Rd. We can investigate installing more crossings.

Follow up: Stop signs were installed on March 11.

Question No. 15: Can you add irrigation to the La Costa Ave right of way?

Response: Will check to see but will add cost to project

Follow up: The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Department (Parks Dept.) does not provide irrigation for our right of way.

Question No. 16: Can the project's schedule be accelerated? Build a Phase 1 of Phase 1? Do parts of the DG path that have no obstructions.

Response: Will check to see.

Follow up: The design will be completed as quickly as possible. However, since the project is not fully funded for construction, there will be a delay unless City Council decides to fund the project in its entirety.

Question No. 17: Is the estimated construction cost valid? The design is at 30%.

Response: The cost is valid for the current phase of the project.

Question No. 18: Can you start clearing and grubbing the right of way in preparation for the project?

Response: Will try.

Follow up: Clearing and grubbing ahead of the project is not allowed because it would violate the permitting process since the activity is part of a larger project.

Question No. 19: Can we call the sheriff for speed enforcement?

Response: Yes.

Question No. 20: What grants have you applied for?

Response: We applied for a grant last year but did not receive an award. We will apply again when the opportunities present themselves.

Follow up: In 2023 the City applied for a grant under the US Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program. We did not receive an award. Early this year the City submitted a request to Assemblymember Boerner's office for a \$1M project - \$900k in one-time funding with a \$100k City match. And the City will be re-applying for a grant under the 2024 SS4A program.

Question No. 21: Is there going to be a wall at Vulcan Ave?

Response: Not at this time. The design calls for soil fill to create the ledge for the DG path. There will be a wall on La Costa Ave just east of Vulcan Ave to create the ledge.

Question No. 22: Is [1967 N Vulcan Ave] developer conditioned to construct improvements?

Response: Yes. They will install curb, gutter, and sidewalk up to La Costa Ct on Vulcan Ave. We will connect a DG path to the end of their improvements and bring it up to La Costa Ave.

Question No. 23: Why isn't the north developer doing more?

Response: The development project on north side of street at Interstate 5 is installing curb, gutter, and sidewalk along their frontage along with a bike lane and buffer.

Question No. 24: What about erosion control after removing vegetation in the right of way.

Response: Will check to see.

Follow up: The projects includes an Erosion Control Plan.

Question No. 25: Summarize the design?

Response: We completed the 30% design and have started the 90% design.

Question No. 26: Can you provide a Gantt chart so we can see the progress?

Response: Will check to see.

Follow up: Project updates are on the City's website.

Question No. 27: Can we link speed changes on La Costa Ave to the project?

Response: The project needs to be built first. Then we can evaluate the street.

Question No. 28: Where will people put their trash cans on trash day if the bike lane will be against the curb? The cans are typically placed against the AC curb. Will they go in the bike path?

Response: Staff will check on this. It may be possible for residents to use the buffer zone.

The following comments were also received during the meeting:

Comment No. 1: An all-way stop will be constructed at the intersection of La Costa Ave and Sheridan Rd.

Comment No. 2: Trees are blocking my vision. They need to be removed.

Comment No. 3: La Costa Ave is dangerous. I hope this project moves forward.

Comment No. 4: Bike lanes should be 6-ft wide. The bike lane buffer should be wider too.

Comment No. 5: We want lower vehicle speeds and the roadway kept narrow.

Comment No. 6: I have an issue with the landscaping in the right of way. Please clear the path.

Comment No. 7: Try to get right of way from developers now to build roundabout at Sheridan Rd.

Comment No. 8: Reclassify La Costa Ave as a 2-lane road from its existing 4-lanes.

Comment No. 9: Check contingencies for the City of Carlsbad to redevelop La Costa Ave.

Comment No. 10: I am concerned that the project will take far too many years to complete. Aside from the engineering issues, I think the City will have great difficulty gaining access to their right-of-way for the walkway from homeowners who have encroached on the right-of-way. I suspect that many of these homeowners will delay the project by objecting to removal of their encroachments.

Comment No. 11: A pedestrian path is long overdue for La Costa Ave.

Comment No. 12: I would like to see a safer and more easily maintained material for the path. Perhaps asphalt or concrete. The existing DG path on La Costa Ave from Vulcan Ave to the railroad bridge has weeds growing out of it and is very slippery after a rain event. Asphalt or concrete would be a safer and longer-term solution.

Comment No. 13: This is a much-needed safety improvement for La Costa Ave. The design looks great, and I hope it can get funded and constructed. Thank you!

Comment No. 14: I just want to make sure bike lane remains safe and pedestrians have separate area to walk. It appears so on PDF but just want to voice that. Thank you for this!

Comment No. 15: Looks great!

Comment No. 16: I fully support this project. It appears we cannot control the speed of people driving on our streets and walking along La Costa Ave is the only way for our neighborhood to get across the tracks. A path like this would make it a lot safer for pedestrians. I like the plan.

Comment No. 17: Just get it done! Typical city government run around.

Comment No. 18: FAST TRACK... Great Project for Public Safety. Would love to see renderings as the project progresses.

At the end of the Q&A session, City Staff thanked the citizens who attended for their time and comments. Some questions and comments were received through the City's Engineering Public Notices website. Others were received in-person through a Comment Sheet. They are all reflected in this report.