

SCCRTC- 2021 Consolidated Call for Projects (RSTPX, STIP, HIP, & CRRSAA)

APPLICATION/PROJECT PROGRAMMING REQUEST

A. Project Information

Applicant/Implementing Agency		Public Agency Sponsor (if different)	
SCCRTC			
Project Title			
SLV Schools Complex Circulation and Access Study			
Brief Description/Scope of Work (attach extra pages to fully describe scope)			
The Study would gather data, complete preliminary engineering, traffic analysis, and a feasibility and needs assessment for improving multimodal system performance on State Highway 9 in Felton and within the SLV Schools Complex (SLV High, Middle, and Elementary Schools), as well as bicycle and walking facilities for students and other users to allow access between Ben Lomond neighborhoods on Glen Arbor Rd in the north, the SLV Schools Complex, and Felton to the south. See separate Scope of Work for full study description.			
Location, Limits, Length (attach map(s)/photos on separate tab)			
Approximately 1.7 miles of State Route 9, PM 8.11 (Glen Arbor Rd) to PM 6.46 (Graham Hill Rd) in the San Lorenzo Valley			
Roadway Functional Classification: (if applicable)		4-Minor Arterial	
Summary of Project Benefits, Purpose and Need			
This project would provide a wide array of benefits for all modes of transportation, including reducing emissions and GHG by reducing congestion and moving trips from personal vehicles to bicycling, walking, and transit; improving travel times and travel time reliability for transit and goods movement; improving public health and increasing bicycling and walking to SLV Schools by providing bicycling and walking facilities on Highway 9; and improving accessibility to transit, especially for transportation disadvantaged youth. See separate Scope of Work for full purpose and need description.			
Funds requested	\$210,000	Total Project Cost	\$300,000
		Estimated # of Daily User	19,000
Was project previously programmed for funds by RTC?		No	RTIP ID
Project Cost by Mode (list approximate percentage of total project costs)			
Mode	% of Total Cost		
Pavement Preservation (rehab, overlay, etc.)			
Road-Auto serving (not rehab)	30%		
Bicycle	20%		
Pedestrian	25%		
Transit	25%		
	100%		
Priority	Project is priority #	of	applications submitted
Contact Name	Phone	E-mail Address	
Brianna Goodman	831-460-3200	bgoodman@scrtc.org	

SLV Schools Complex Circulation and Access Study - Scope of Work

Study Description

The Study would gather data, complete preliminary engineering, traffic analysis, and a feasibility and needs assessment for improving multimodal system performance on State Highway 9 in Felton and within the SLV Schools Complex (SLV High, Middle, and Elementary Schools), as well as bicycle and walking facilities for students and other users to allow access between Ben Lomond neighborhoods on Glen Arbor Rd in the north, the SLV Schools Complex, and Felton to the south. Currently there are no dedicated facilities for alternative transportation in the project area, and the current circulation design in and around the SLV Schools Complex creates severe congestion around school drop-off and pick-up times, causing delay for commuters and goods movement. This segment of Highway 9 is the primary access route between three towns to the north and the rest of Santa Cruz County, there are no parallel routes. The Study would also analyze major improvements to the Santa Cruz Metro Transit bus stops that serve the SLV Schools Complex. SLVUSD has agreed to partner financially for this study by contributing 30% of funding required, which represents the approximate project area on SLVUSD property.

Summary of Benefits, Purpose, and Need

This project would provide a wide array of benefits for all modes of transportation, including reducing emissions and GHG by reducing congestion and moving trips from personal vehicles to bicycling, walking, and transit; improving travel times and travel time reliability for transit and goods movement; improving public health and increasing bicycling and walking to SLV Schools by providing bicycling and walking facilities on Highway 9; and improving accessibility to transit, especially for transportation disadvantaged youth. The purpose of this project is to provide pedestrian and bicycle connections from Felton and from Glen Arbor neighborhoods to SLV Schools Complex, improve vehicle and transit circulation at SLV Schools Complex in coordination with SLV Unified School District. This project is needed to address deficient pedestrian and bicycle facilities to the SLV Schools Complex entrance along SR9, poor circulation within and past the SLV complex.

Task 1: Project Management and Coordination

Coordinate ongoing project team meetings to communicate project status and receive input from stakeholders. 30-minute biweekly check-ins, plus monthly Project Development Team meetings as defined in the five agency Memorandum of Understanding (SCCRTC, Caltrans, SLVUSD, SCC DPW, and SCC Metro), and focus meetings as needed.

- Project Schedule – updated monthly or as needed
- Meeting agendas, minutes

Task 2: Identify Data Needs, Collect and Compile Data

Identify data needed to develop improved circulation and multimodal access plan. Develop mapping of existing conditions based on readily available information.

- As-builts – Hwy 9 PM 6.46 to 8.11, SLV Schools Campus
- Accident Data – from Caltrans, SLVUSD, SWITRS, TIMS
- Speed Data – along Hwy 9 – request latest speed study from Caltrans
- Existing drawings, information from Caltrans for PID preparation (05-1K890 CAPM & 05-1M550 SR9 Complete Streets PIDs)

Task 3: Traffic Assessment

Assess readily available information and data, high level analysis and evaluation. Includes both SLV Schools Campus circulation as well as Hwy 9 from southern intersection of Glen Arbor Rd with SR9 to Graham Hill Road and SR9 (PM 6.46 – 8.11).

- Safety analysis using collision data
- Summary of deficiencies

Task 4: Preliminary Engineering

Conceptual engineering drawings of proposed improvements based on traffic assessment findings, accident data, speed data taking into considerations right of way, environmental, and physical constraints. The alternatives analysis will be an iterative process considering the needs and requirements of SLVUSD, Caltrans, and Metro buses.

- SLV Schools Campus circulation/parking reconfiguration – a proposed parking layout and pick up/drop off traffic configuration
- Improvements along Hwy 9 – includes active transportation and traffic operational improvements.
- Metro transit bus island placement and circulation of transit buses accessing school campus
- Cost Estimates – assume Caltrans 11 page format

Task 5: Delivery Plan

Identification of a specific project or projects on SLV Schools Campus property and on Hwy 9.

- Phasing (if applicable) short term and long term
- Summary of planning level costs and schedule for each project

Task 6: Public Outreach

One virtual informational meeting or informational video explaining the issues/deficiencies and presenting solutions – includes preparation of graphics, presentation materials, visual exhibits, and assumes meeting(s)/outreach efforts will be virtual. May include an electronic survey.

Task 7: Report

Summary report including:

- purpose and need of the project
- existing conditions/deficiencies
- summary of traffic information and operational deficiencies
- Summary of assumptions made and solutions/recommendations for SLV Schools Campus circulation/parking reconfiguration, improvements along Hwy 9, and bus stop placement/considerations
- Summary of outreach efforts
- Delivery Plan write up

B. Project Benefits/Evaluation Criteria

Information in this section will be used to evaluate projects. The RTC is required to consider how well projects advance regional, state and federal goals, policies, performance metrics and targets, including how projects will contribute

Project Title:	SLV Schools Complex Circulation and Access Study
-----------------------	--

Generally, what are the benefits of this project?

Improves safety for all users; improves travel times and travel time reliability for vehicles, freight, and emergency response; reduces emissions and GHG; increases public health and rates bicycling and walking by

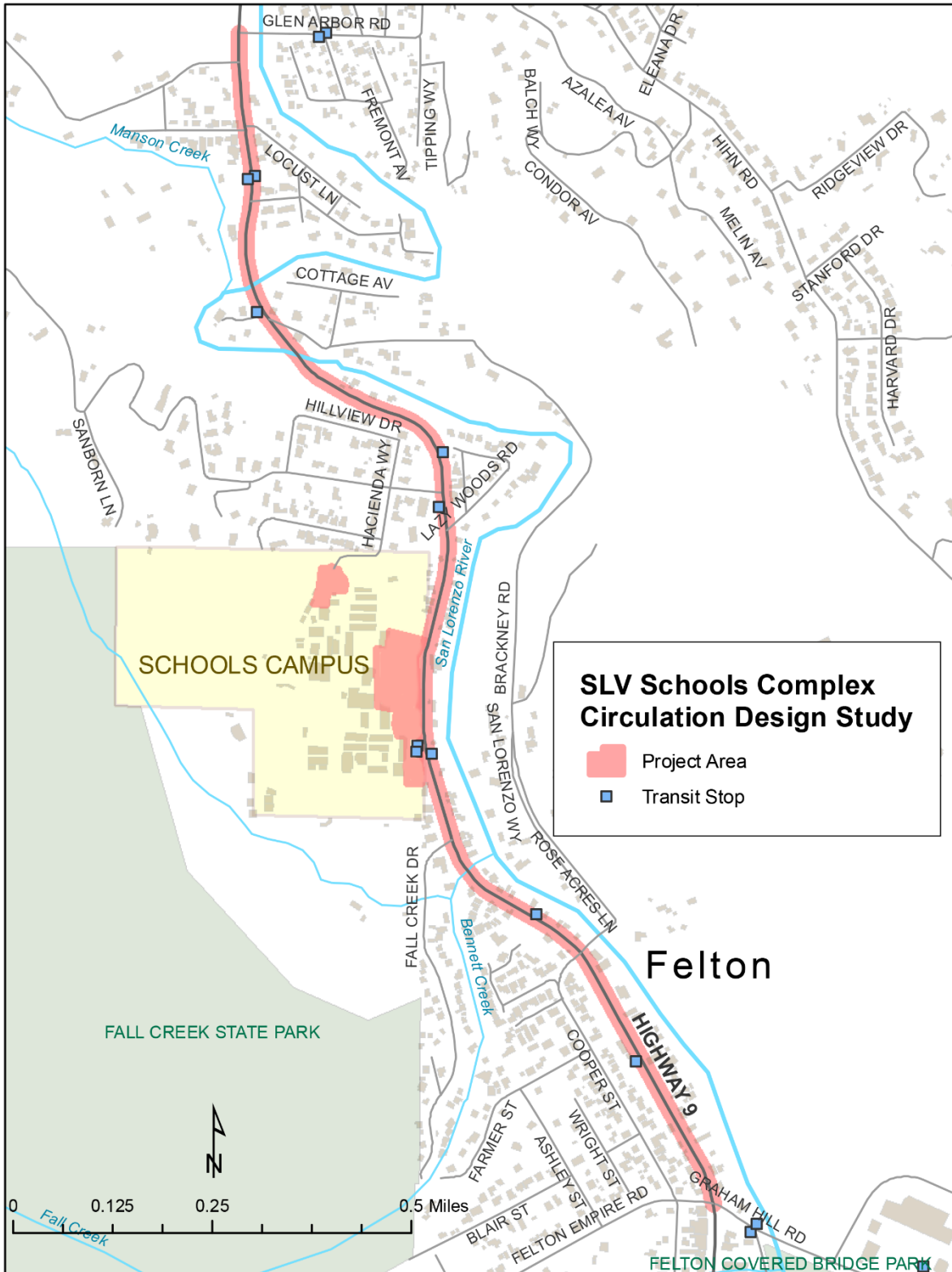
	Benefit Category (see Attachment 2 of Call for Projects for additional information and supporting data)	How does this project address any of the following? Projects are not expected to address all of these; if not applicable or not a primary purpose, write "N/A".
1	Safety (reduce fatal or injury collisions)	In the last 10 years (2010-2020) there have been 55 documented collisions in the project area, including 7 bike/pedestrian injuries and 2 bike/pedestrian fatalities. Providing alternative transportation facilities would allow these users to stay out of the auto traveled lane, reducing conflicts between vehicles and bikes/pedestrians and improving safety for youth traveling to and from school. Improve transit stop safety and design to encourage transit use. Optimize traffic flow within and around the SLV schools complex to minimize conflicts between vehicles, and between vehicles and bikes/pedestrians/transit. Improve traffic operations for school circulation and through traffic along Hwy 9.
2	System preservation (maintain existing transportation infrastructure, service, or program)	N/A
3	System Performance	This project would improve the efficiency of the transportation network in the San Lorenzo Valley. Highway 9 is the only continuous arterial in this area, and the congestion at the SLV schools complex from the current circulation design and lack of alternative transportation options creates significant variability in travel times during peak periods, reduces freight throughput, increases transit travel time, and contributes to GHG emissions. This project would also improve emergency response and evacuation efficiency at the SLV Schools Campus and for the SLV towns.
3a	Reduce emissions and/or vehicle miles traveled	Improving auto circulation and vehicle throughput into, out of, and past the SLV schools would reduce emissions and GHG from vehicles idling in traffic. New alternative transportation facilities would also reduce VMT by reducing the number of students who must be dropped off by personal vehicle.
3b	Improve travel times, travel time reliability; reduce delay	During student drop off and pick up times current travel times and travel time reliability are negatively impacted by the current circulation plan. Increasing the efficiency of through and past the SLV Schools complex would reduce this variability and reduce delay.
3d	Improve freight or goods movement efficiency	Highway 9 is a major regional truck route and the only continuous arterial accessible to freight in the SLV. Major logging, quarry, and other operations as well as general freight shipping to multiple towns rely on this segment of Highway 9 in front of the schools operating efficiently.
4	Increase Access for All (Expand multi-modal travel options/choices, especially to and within key destinations for all users)	Expanded and improved fully accessible Metro transit stop with better connections to SLV school campus destinations would provide better access to the campus for those with mobility needs. Adding bike/pedestrian facilities where there currently are none, there are no alternative routes in this segment.
5	Health and Equity - Enhance health, safe access to key destination for transportation-disadvantaged populations	Improve public health for transportation disadvantaged youth by allowing everyday access to school by foot or bike instead of needing to be driven.
5a	Improve public health or promote healthy communities, provide outreach to targeted users/health issues	Help reduce obesity and inactivity in transportation disadvantaged youth by providing active transportation facilities.
5b	Serve people who are transportation disadvantaged due to age, income, ability or language or other challenges	Serves transportation disadvantaged youth (students) and other transportation disadvantaged transit dependent residents through improving the transit experience.

Additional Considerations in Project Evaluation:

A.	RTP Consistency: If project is included in the 2040 or Draft 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Project List, list RTP Project Number	Draft 2045 RTP Project List ID: CO-P46b
B.	Consistency with Complete Streets guidelines and policies: Describe how is project consistent with guidelines, integrates complete streets elements	This project would change this segment of Highway 9 from a street that only serves vehicles to a street that serves all users. New bike and pedestrian facilities, as well as new or improved crossing facilities, would promote active transportation. Improved transit stop facilities would promote transit use.

C. Consistency with other plans. What other plans is this project listed in, if any?	San Lorenzo Valley Trail Plan (bike/ped component), Highway 9/SLV Complete Streets Corridor Plan, Santa Cruz County draft Active Transportation Plan
D. Public engagement: How was this project determined to be a priority? What outreach will occur during implementation?	The project was determined to be the #1 priority for SLV residents as a result of extensive outreach for the Highway 9/SLV Complete Streets Corridor Plan (SLV Plan). The RTC solicited public input on the draft SLV Plan through email notices to hundreds of individuals and stakeholder groups, two well attended public open houses, several online surveys, news releases and articles, neighborhood social media groups, community calendars, flyers, RTC advisory committee meetings, six focus groups, and a public hearing at the RTC's February 7, 2019 meeting. One of the focus groups concentrated specifically on this location, and included parents, school administrators and staff, as well as transportation professionals from local jurisdictions. As this preliminary engineering, traffic analysis, and a feasibility and needs assessment is a data-driven engineering study, most of the inputs for this phase will be data driven, as opposed to community input driven. But RTC will conduct outreach to the community after initial analysis, in order to present several design options and solicit feedback on them. This outreach would be one or more events as well as an online survey. As outreach was extensive in previous phases, the project team has already built relationships with numerous stakeholders and community groups and can easily solicit robust input when needed.
E. Scale of Benefits- How many users are expected to use the facility, service or program? What is the source of this estimate?	In the 2021-2022 school year, SLVUSD included 2,466 students in grades K-12 who received their education regularly on-campus and 270 teachers and staff (source: SLVUSD administration). In 2019 Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) at the northern terminus and southern terminus of the project area were 18,300 and 19,500 respectively (source: Caltrans Traffic Census Program).
F. Potential Risks (and plans to mitigate them)	
F1 Funding - Is this project fully funded?	If this grant were successful, this traffic and engineering study would be fully funded. SLVUSD has agreed to fund the 30% of the study that occurs on their property (\$90,000).
How will potential cost increases be funded?	Potential cost increases would be funded through the SLV Measure D funding, or by SLVUSD.
F2 Schedule: Describe any potential delays to schedule	Due to having multiple agencies involved, scheduling challenges could be encountered for critical decision-making meetings for this study. This will be mitigated by a Memorandum of Understanding the RTC is in the process of finalizing for approval between all 5 parties which identifies a staff-level representative for the project team as well as a consistent meeting schedule.
F3 Deliverability: Describe why your agency is capable of delivering this project. (sufficient staff, project management, performance in past)	The RTC has identified a dedicated staff member to manage the project. The RTC has a proven track record in delivery of complex projects along the state highway system and has a thorough understanding of the Caltrans Project Development Procedures Manual.
F4 Environmental: Describe any potential environmental issues, mitigations, risks associated with current and future environmental conditions (climate change, extreme weather, seismic)	The principal section of the project site is located on a slope of mature trees, which may require mitigation in future phases. Portions of the project site are also adjacent to or span over the San Lorenzo River, so there may need to be analysis of runoff and other affect on water quality in future phases.
F5 Other: Describe any other potential risks and plans to mitigate risks	

SLV Schools Complex Circulation and Access Study – Project Area Map



SLV Schools Complex Circulation and Access Study – Existing Conditions



Southbound morning drop-off congestion at High School entrance



Congested internal drop-off circulation at High School



Students walking south from schools to Graham Hill Rd in narrow nonstandard shoulder



Students walking north from Graham Hill Rd to schools in shoulder



Students walking north from schools to Glen Arbor Rd in narrow nonstandard shoulder



Southbound morning drop-off congestion at Elementary School entrance



Goods movement idling in congestion at SLV Schools Complex northbound



Congestion between Elementary and High School entrances during afternoon pick up