Draft Concepts for the SLV Schools Access Study

Community Workshop
Thursday, November 3, 2022
6:00 – 7:30 PM
Agenda

• Project Background
• Public Engagement
• Engineering Concepts
• Phasing Plan
• Collaboration
• Next Steps and Action Items
Project Background and Goals – 2019 Plan

The 2019 Highway 9/San Lorenzo Valley Complete Streets Corridor Plan (SLV Plan) goals included:

• Enhance safety for all users along Highway 9 and connecting county roads
• Improve bike and pedestrian access to and within town centers and schools
• Improve multimodal transit access

The SLV Plan included extensive input between 2017 & 2019 including:

• Surveys
• Focus group meetings
• Public meetings
Project Background and Goals – School Study

The SLV Schools Access Study will:

• Build upon projects 9, 10, 11, and 12 in the SLV Plan

• Review traffic operations at 3 schools:
  • SLV High School
  • SLV Middle School
  • SLV Elementary School

• Identify improvements for school access by walking, bicycling, transit, and car between the southern intersection of Glen Arbor and Graham Hill Road.

• Evaluate potential improvements to school circulation and parking.

• Improve traffic flow along Highway 9 for non-school traffic.
The SLV Schools Access Study area includes:

- Highway 9 between the south intersection with Glen Arbor Road and Graham Hill Road (Caltrans Post Mile (PM) 6.46 to 8.11)
- Site access and circulation at the three SLV schools.

The SLV Schools Access Study will:

- Collaborate with Caltrans staff
- Account for Caltrans plans for west side sidewalk between schools and Felton (05-1M400 Safety Project)
- Coordinate potential improvements at the Schools Complex with Caltrans projects
Recent Public Engagement Activities

• Elementary School Input
  • May 23, 2022
  • 113 Student Participants

• Middle/High School Survey
  • May 17 to June 1, 2022
  • 105 Student/Parent Participants

• School Staff Survey
  • May 25 to June 5, 2022
  • 21 Staff Participants

• Public Survey
  • May 25 to June 30, 2022
  • 201 Participants
Recent Engagement Feedback

• Response concerns received:
  1. Need improved access between Highway 9 and SLV school campuses;
  2. Lack of walking and bicycling facilities;
  3. Congestion during student pick-up and drop-off.

• Some favored policies and solutions:
  1. Sidewalks on Highway 9 from the South (Felton);
  2. Right-turn pockets on Highway 9 into school entrances;
  3. Shoulder improvements for bicycling on Highway 9 from the South (Felton).
Recent Engagement Feedback

- SLV parents support additional bus service and enhancing stop amenities.
- Students are interested in enhancing walking and bicycling near campus.
- Staff are interested in separation between bus/transit vehicles and passenger vehicles.
- Dedicated space for walking and bicycling is highly favored.
Highway 9: Graham Hill Rd to SLV Schools

Current Caltrans Identified Improvements South of SLV Schools
Concept: SLV Middle School Circulation

Note: Draft concepts are subject to further engineering review including environmental review, design, permitting, property ownership, ADA compliance, and funding availability.
Concept: SLV Elementary School Circulation

Note: Draft concepts are subject to further engineering review including environmental review, design, permitting, property ownership, ADA compliance, and funding availability.
Concept: SLV High School Circulation

Note: Draft concepts are subject to further engineering review including environmental review, design, permitting, property ownership, ADA compliance, and funding availability.
Challenges to Implementation

• All concepts shown are graphic in nature and do not represent approved project or commitment of funds
• Implementation requires additional engineering work including:
  • Environmental Review
  • Permitting
  • Right-of-Way and Property Ownership
  • Preliminary & Final Design
  • ADA Compliance
• Implementation requires availability of yet to be identified grant or local funding
Key Design Features: Universal Accessibility

• Mobility recommendations focused on serving people of all ages and abilities.
  • Youth and Older Adults
  • People with Disabilities
  • People with Strollers

• Recommended Design Features
  • ADA Ramps
  • Connection to Transit Stops
  • Uninterrupted Routes
Schedule and Phasing Plan

- Draft Schedule to Advance Concepts
  - Near Term,
  - Medium Term, or
  - Long Term.
- Identify lead agency/organization
- Identify opportunities where engineering solutions can be bundled with existing roadwork programming.

Phasing Plan Elements:

- Schedule
- Estimated Total Project Costs
- Cost by Project Phase
- Cost by Year
- Potential Funding Sources
Collaborative Funding Pursuits

- Partner agency & public collaboration positions for competitive grant pursuits.
- Joint participation between multiple agencies increases likelihood of funding award through demonstration of:
  - Agency collaboration,
  - Diverse community support,
  - Pooled match funding.

Project Partner Agencies/Stakeholders:

- Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)
- San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District (SLVUSD)
- County of Santa Cruz (DWP)
- Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transportation District (METRO)
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- San Lorenzo Valley Community Public
Next Steps and Action Items

1. Advance Engineering Concepts
2. Refine Concepts with Project Partners
3. Continue Stakeholder Presentations
4. Solicit Input from School/Community Stakeholders
5. Prepare Schedule and Phasing Plan
6. Finalize Summary Report
7. Pursue Grant Funding
Questions?

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