



UPDATE #3: ALMOND GROVE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

NOVEMBER 2014

Town staff continues its commitment to a high level of engagement with the neighborhood on the Almond Grove Reconstruction Project. As a result of this engagement, a number of community members have expressed a desire for asphalt as opposed to concrete for paving the Almond Grove streets under consideration for reconstruction. In line with this theme, we conducted a third community meeting on October 28 and a fourth (repeat) community meeting on November 13, 2014. With the ongoing discussion of pavement material in mind, the last two meetings have included a review of the pros and cons of both. The PowerPoint presentation from these latest meetings and a report by Nichols Consulting on pavement options and costs are also available on the Almond Grove website for review at: www.losgatosca.gov/AlmondGroveProject

In order to ascertain the neighborhood's desire regarding asphalt or concrete pavement, Town staff will conduct a postcard vote that includes property owners on all of the street sections included in the Almond Grove reconstruction project area, which aligns with other Town standard methods for analyzing community input. These street sections include Broadway, Tait, Bachman, Almendra, Wilder, Bean, Nicholson, Massol, Glen Ridge and Bayview. Staff will provide the tabulation of this vote to the property owners included in the vote, the Historic Preservation Committee (if available by the January HPC meeting), and the Town Council.

Below are a few of these questions and corresponding answers on asphalt/concrete that came up at the community meetings:

- Is it possible to place asphalt that looks like concrete? *There are two main ways to add color to asphalt. One is with a cementitious material that is applied to the surface of the asphalt. This system colors the surface only, is costly, and may be difficult to replace following utility cuts. The second method is where color is mixed into the top layer of the asphalt. With this process, colors are limited to reds and browns.*
- What is the replacement cost difference for a homeowner if repairing the street with asphalt versus concrete? *Replacement with asphalt for a similarly sized section of street will be approximately 25% to 35% less expensive than replacement with concrete.*
- How will the Town require the concrete or asphalt to be repaired when utilities are put in? *For concrete, each concrete panel (approx. 8'x8') that is cut will need to be replaced. For asphalt, replacement of the asphalt is required 1' past each side of the utility trench. A "no cut" moratorium would be placed on reconstructed streets for 3 years after project completion.*

Town staff will be providing an update to the Historic Preservation Committee on the Almond Grove project on January 28, 2015 and the Town Council shortly thereafter. Please review the Town's website to confirm meeting dates and times. If you have further questions regarding the project, please contact the Town Engineer, Lisa Petersen, at (408) 399-5773 or lpetersen@losgatosca.gov.