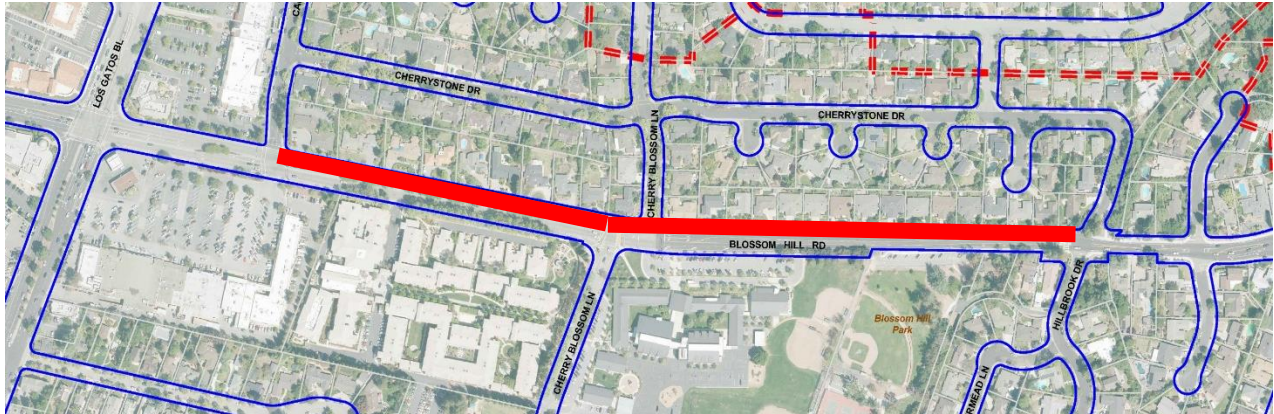


BLOSSOM HILL ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY PROJECT UPDATE (CIP NO. 813-0239)

NOVEMBER 10, 2022



Dear Residents/Property Owners:

At the community meeting on September 22, 2022, Town staff showed a “quick-build” concept plan to reduce speeds and improve safety in the project area. Implementation of the quick-build plan (also referred to as the Phase 1 Concept Plan), would reduce the four-lane road configuration to a single vehicle lane in each direction, **potentially** reducing speeds and allowing for the installation of bike lanes **and providing greater separation between motorized vehicles and bicyclists/pedestrians.**

Participants at the September 22, 2022, community meeting passionately wanted to see more robust and long-term traffic safety measures as soon as possible. Based on feedback from that meeting, the project team has been evaluating and considering additional safety enhancements within the currently available budget.

Consideration of Traffic Impacts Resulting from the Phase I Concept Plan

Changes to the number of lanes in a roadway (will change) **may** reduce the speed of cars, but also has the potential to increase traffic delays in the area. Evaluation of these changes to traffic is a critical part of any design process. Evaluation is typically completed via computer simulations (i.e., traffic modeling).

At the September meeting, the project team presented the results of traffic modeling completed for the project area. The traffic modeling predicts a modest increase in traffic delays when the Phase I Concept Plan is implemented.

To affirm the results of the traffic modeling, the project team conducted an on-site field traffic study between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on October 13th with temporary cones, signs, and an arrow board

simulating the Phase 1 Concept Plan. The results of that field simulation below suggest that traffic in the area will be delayed more than was predicted in the computer modeling.

1. In the morning, westbound traffic (traveling toward Los Gatos Boulevard) queued to Linda Avenue (a distance of 3,100 feet or approximately 122 vehicles). This delay was highest between 8:00 a.m. and 8:20 a.m. as this is when the student commute overlaps with commuter traffic. The delay is increased by the “walk” signal at the intersection of Blossom Hill Road and Cherry Blossom Lane, requiring that all vehicles stop. The “all stop” increases safety for pedestrians which serves a primary project goal.
2. In the afternoon, eastbound traffic (for vehicles traveling toward Union Avenue) was delayed onto Los Gatos Boulevard. Upon further review of field conditions at the time of the simulation the project team determined that the delay was caused in part by timing of the traffic signal at Cherry Blossom Lane and Blossom Hill Road. Adjustments to the signal timing will reduce this afternoon delay to an acceptable level with delays extending to Camelia Terrace.

At this time, the project team believes the Phase I Concept Plan will achieve the project goals of enhancing safety and reducing speeds on Blossom Hill Road. While the morning commute may prove more challenging after the improvements are implemented, alternative routes are available, and drivers may choose to avoid the area.

The project team believes that the benefits of the Phase 1 Concept Plan - providing continuous buffered bike lanes, moving motorized vehicles farther away from bicyclists and pedestrians and potentially reducing speeds along Blossom Hill Road - will enhance safety along the corridor and mitigate the potential impacts of additional queuing.

Staff is planning to bring the Phase 1 Concept Plan to the Los Gatos Town Council for consideration at its December 6, 2022, meeting.

Please visit the Town website for more information:
<https://www.losgatosca.gov/2650/Blossom-Hill-Road-Traffic-Safety>



Please sign up for “Notify Me” system on the Town’s website to get project update notifications via email or text. If you have any questions, please email Janice Chin at jchin@losgatosca.gov.

