
From: Serge Bonte
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 4:32 PM
To: City Council
Subject: re: 4/9/22 CIP Study Session

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Honorable Mayor Showalter and City Council Members:

I might not be able to attend your meeting (even remotely) but wanted to share a few comments on that agenda item.

While I regret some of the projects' deferral, I would like to encourage you to not reshuffle -yet again- the priorities set forth in the Staff Report. The justifications for the deferral are complex (lack of adequate human and financial resources, some fund sources have to be used for specific purposes, some projects are delayed for reasons outside of City Hall - North Bayshore/Google developments coming to a near halt.....). Reshuffling will only create more delays, more work and more frustration for City Staff.

Instead you should focus on the root causes of why so few Active Transportation Projects get funded and delivered in a reasonable time frame.

Regarding funding,

1. I am alarmed that the City is considering a revenue measure without providing any visibility on how that extra revenue will be used. Maybe it could fill some of the funding gaps you identified, we simply don't know. In contrast, when Palo Alto proposed its latest hotel tax increase, it set up a plan on how that money would be used: <https://www.infrastructure.cityofpaloalto.org/>
2. There seems to be an imbalance in funds available solely for Shoreline and funds available for the rest of the City. At the same time there seem to be more Active Transportation Projects needed in the rest of the City than in Shoreline. You should study how that imbalance can be removed within the constraints of the Shoreline Tax District.

Regarding Active Transportation Projects delivery:

1. In the immediate term, don't reshuffle anything from the Staff Report, it will only delay things.
2. Start reusing common/plug and play elements from one project to another. For example, for the Moffet Complete Street plan, reuse most of the treatments (crosswalk types, median islands..) selected for the El Camino Streetscape plan.
3. Put more effort on Active Transportation improvements that are more policy driven and not as infrastructure heavy. In a previous letter, I urge you to get Caltrans to ban turns on red along ECR (as they seem inclined to do in Palo Alto).

Sincerely,

Serge Bonte