



MEMORANDUM

Public Works Department

DATE: April 10, 2019

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission and Urban Forestry Board

FROM: Darwin Galang, Associate Civil Engineer
Sayed Fakhry, City Traffic Engineer

SUBJECT: Castro/Moffett/Central Intersection Near-Term Improvements, CIP 16-40, Heritage Tree Removal Mitigation

RECOMMENDATION

Review the proposed Heritage tree mitigation for Castro/Moffett/Central Intersection Near-Term Improvements, CIP 16-40, and forward a recommendation to the City Council to approve the staff-recommended mitigation for the removal of two (2) Heritage trees with two-to-one (2:1) tree replacements and the planting of four (4) new 24" scarlet oak box trees.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

On November 25, 2014, the City Council adopted the Shoreline Boulevard Transportation Corridor Study that developed a conceptual design for integrated transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities in the Shoreline Boulevard Corridor from the Downtown Transit Center to the North Bayshore Area. The approved conceptual design included near-term improvements to the Castro Street/Moffett Boulevard/Central Expressway intersection to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety at the intersection until the Transit Center Master Plan grade separation project can be constructed.

The proposed improvements include reconfiguration of northbound Castro Street by eliminating the two left-turn lanes onto westbound Central Expressway, installing a through bicycle lane, and providing a designated right-turn-only lane onto eastbound Central Expressway; tightening the radius of the right-turn lane from Central Expressway to northbound Moffett Boulevard and to southbound Castro Street; traffic signal modifications; and signage and striping improvements to enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety at the intersection (see Figure 1).

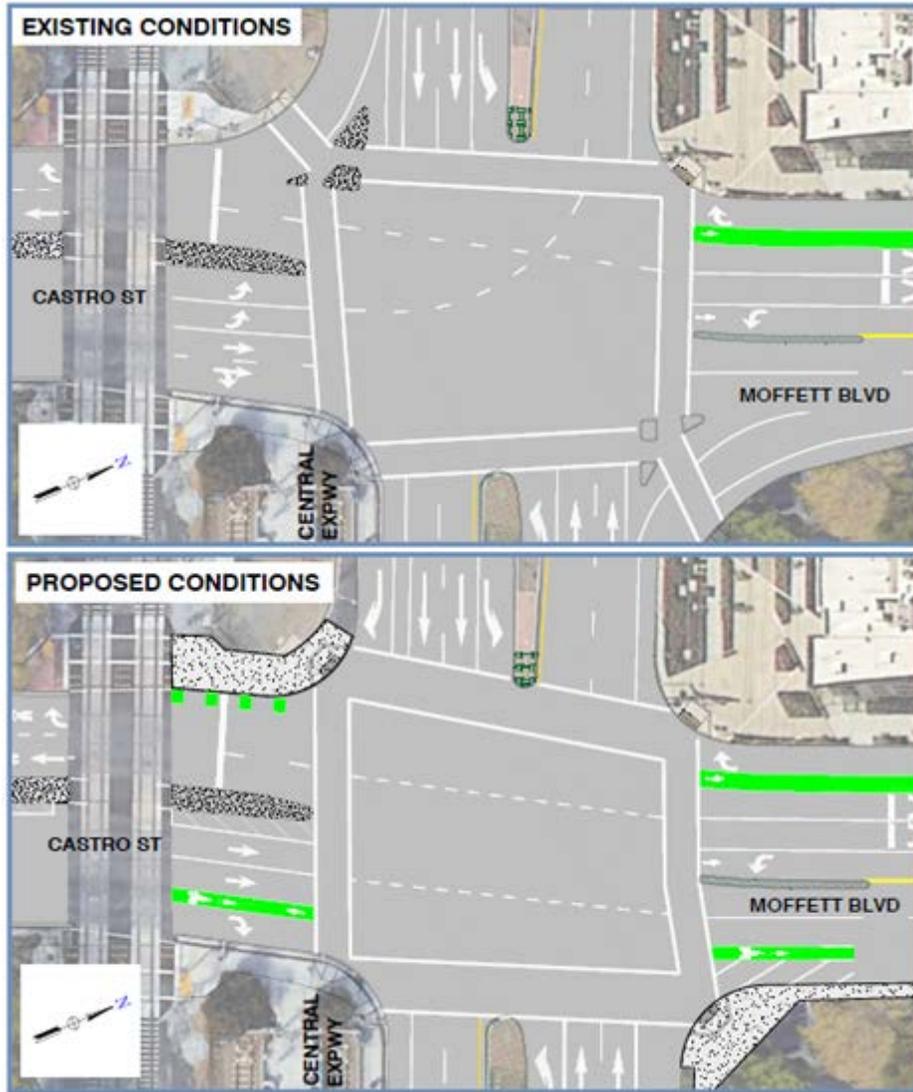


Figure 1 – Existing Conditions and Proposed Improvements at the Intersection

One major component of the project is to improve the northeast corner of the intersection. To significantly enhance pedestrian safety and accessibility, the project proposes the removal of the “pork chop” island, removal of the free right-turn lane, installation of new ADA-compliant curb ramp, and installation of new, wider sidewalk and larger area for pedestrians to congregate, as shown in Figure 2.

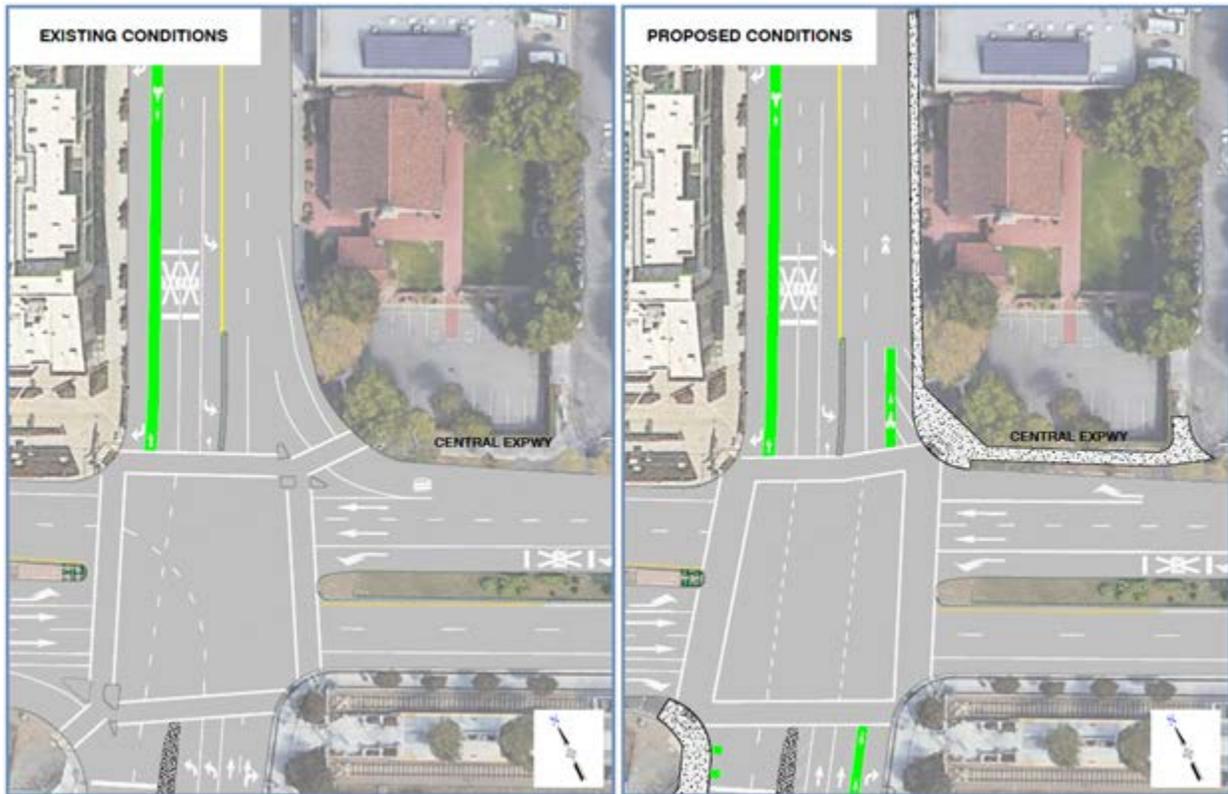


Figure 2 – Northeast Corner Improvements

Tightening the turning radius at the northeast corner with the aforementioned improvements will result in shorter crossing distances for pedestrians and reduced speed of vehicles turning right from Central Expressway to Moffett Boulevard. With a wider sidewalk, pedestrians and bicyclists will also experience enhanced safety, visibility, and comfort crossing the intersection. Furthermore, the proposed wider sidewalk areas at this corner will enhance bike access to Stevens Creek Trail via Santa Rosa Avenue and frontage of Willowgate Street.

The geometric changes to accommodate the new curb radius and wider sidewalk requires the removal of two Heritage trees at the northeast corner of the intersection (by the Adobe Building). The dimensions and types of the two (2) Heritage trees proposed for removal are summarized Table 1.

Table 1 – Heritage Tree Summary

No.	Tree Circumference	Type
1	90" at the union of the multi-trunk tree just below the first major branch	Box Elder
2	60" measured at 54" above grade	Chinese Elm

As mitigation for removal of two (2) Heritage trees, staff recommends to replant at a two-to-one (2:1) ratio with four (4) new 24" box trees. These trees will be native.

The Parks and Open Space Manager recommends planting the four (4) new 24" scarlet oak box trees in the median island along Central Expressway (see Exhibits B and C). The Urban Forestry Board's recommendation for mitigation will be forwarded to the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

Castro/Moffett/Central Intersection Near-Term Improvements, CIP 16-40, is funded in the amount of \$275,000 from Construction/Conveyance Tax, \$425,000 from Shoreline Community Funding, and \$1,000,000 from Merlone Geier Funding, for a total funding amount of \$1,700,000.

Tree removal and mitigation will be included in the construction documents and funded from the construction budget.

PUBLIC NOTICING

In addition to the standard agenda posting, staff posted notices on the Heritage trees identifying them for removal and provided information for attending this meeting. Information related to the tree removal was also posted on the City's Parks web page under Heritage Trees.

DG-SF/AF/6/PWK
916-04-10-19M

- Attachments: 1. Location Map
2. Location of Proposed Tree Removal
3. New Tree Locations

cc: PWD, APWD – Solomon, POSM, CTE, ACE – Galang, F/c