



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

Memorandum

DATE: October 24, 2018

MEMO TO: MROSD Board of Directors

THROUGH: Ana Ruiz, General Manager *AR*

FROM: Julie Andersen, Resource Specialist III and Meredith Manning, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: Highway 17 Wildlife and Regional Trail Crossings - Public Meeting

SUMMARY

In 2016, the Planning and Natural Resources Committee (PNR) hosted a public meeting for the Highway 17 Wildlife and Regional Trail Crossings Project. At that time, the project consisted of four project alternatives. Since then, ongoing discussions with the public, project stakeholders, and partner agencies, as well as additional field investigations have resulted in four new project alternatives, for a total of eight. On June 5, 2018 (R-18-54), the Board approved advancement of all eight alternatives to Caltrans to develop their Project Study Report as part of their Project Development Support (PSR-PDS) phase. To fulfill Caltrans' requirements for their PSR-PDS process, Midpen will be conducting a second public meeting to receive public feedback on the additional new project alternatives.

DISCUSSION

A July 2016 Preliminary Alternatives Report was released for the project that consisted of four alternatives ahead of an August 2016 public workshop hosted by the PNR. The August workshop and subsequent discussions with partner and stakeholder agencies identified four additional new alternatives. Comments from partner and stakeholder agencies indicated that it was too early in the process to remove potentially feasible project alternatives from Caltrans review. At the June 5, 2018 Board meeting, the Board approved a contract amendment for the project consultant team to evaluate all eight alternatives during the Caltrans PSR-PDS phase (R-18-54). The consultant team has since been revising the alternatives, updating the Revised Alternatives Report, and preparing the PSR-PDS for Caltrans review.

Project staff will be meeting with partner and stakeholder agencies on Friday, October 19 to preview the Revised Alternatives Report prior to an upcoming public meeting on November 7. This second public workshop will be held in an open house format to solicit public input. The open house will occur from 7:00 pm to 9:00pm at the Los Gatos Methodist Church (see attached flyer). This public workshop will provide information and solicit public input on all the alternatives. No formal action will be taken, and no recommendation will be considered. All Board members are encouraged to attend.

The meeting will begin with introductions of the project team followed by a presentation of all eight Project Alternatives. The Revised Alternatives Report will also be available for review at the meeting and on the District project webpage at: www.openspace.org/Hwy17. At the workshop, the public will have an opportunity to: 1) learn more about the project purpose, need, and goals; 2) review the project alternatives and criteria used to evaluate the potential crossings; 3) speak with members of the project team; 4) review the project timeline; and 5) provide feedback that will be used to inform the PSR-PDS.

The PSR-PDS is currently in process and scheduled for completion in July 2019. Concurrent with development of these documents, Caltrans will review the project alternatives and cost estimates. At the completion of the PSR-PDS, the Board of Directors (Board) will review Caltrans findings to determine which alternatives remain feasible and cost effective. The Board will forward to Caltrans the alternatives that should advance to the next environmental review phase (which commences upon completion of the PSR-PDS). The District will then work with Caltrans to determine which agency will be the lead agency for environmental review. Selection of the preferred project alternative(s) during environmental review will be the responsibility of the lead agency.

A separate trail planning project is also underway to identify trail connections that will link up to the new crossing alternatives. This work will both inform and be informed by selection of the preferred alternative(s) for the Highway 17 Wildlife and Trails and Regional Trail Crossings project. Following completion of the PSR-PDS and its outcome, which is expected in July 2019, staff anticipates preparing a draft trails connections report to present to PNR and the Board by the end of 2019 or spring 2020.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Public meeting flyer



Highway 17 Wildlife and Regional Trail Crossings

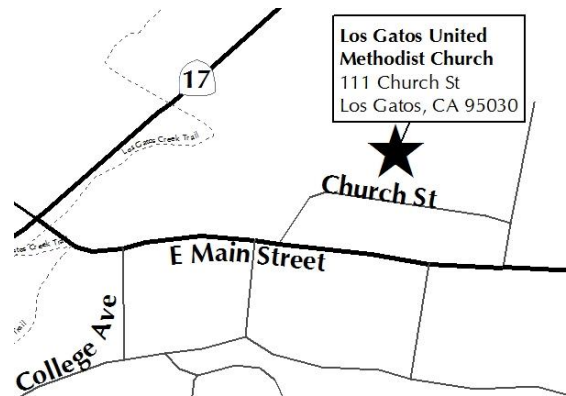
Conceptual Design and Revised Alternatives

Public Meeting

Los Gatos United Methodist Church
111 Church Street
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Wednesday, November 7, 2018
7:00 pm

Meeting Location



Midpen is working with Caltrans to develop wildlife and regional trail crossings across State Highway 17 near the Town of Los Gatos. The Highway 17 Wildlife and Regional Trail Crossings were identified as a Top 25 Priority as part of the District's Vision Plan. Measure AA, a \$300 million bond approved by voters in 2014 will provide partial funding of \$14 million for the project. Midpen is leading this locally, regionally and nationally important project and will collaborate with many partners and stakeholders to complete this work.

The public meeting will provide an overview of the project to date and review of the revised alternatives and preliminary conceptual designs.

Parking is limited. Street parking will be available, please allow adequate time for arrival.

For complete information about the project visit
www.openspace.org/Hwy17

Questions or Comments?

Please contact Julie Andersen, Project Manager
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Natural Resources Department
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650.691.1200 - Hwy17@openspace.org

Project Area Map (Ovals indicate alternative locations)



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the District Clerk at (650) 691-1200. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.