



Carson City Planning Division

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MEMORANDUM

Planning Commission Meeting of December 19, 2018

TO: Planning Commission **Item E-2**

FROM: Hope Sullivan, AICP
Planning Manager

DATE: December 7, 2018

SUBJECT: **Presentation and Discussion Only:** To give an update and solicit public comments on the 30-percent design of the South Carson Street Complete Streets Project.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this item is to allow Public Works staff to provide an update on the South Carson Complete Streets Project. The South Carson Complete Streets Project plans to convert the large South Carson Street corridor into more productive uses that facilitate comfortable, convenient, and safe travel for pedestrians and cyclists; improve access to abutting businesses; spur private investment in this important and vibrant commercial corridor; increase driver safety; and prepare Carson City for future Smart City advancements.

The project limits are from the intersection of South Carson Street and 5th Street, south to the intersection of South Carson Street and I-580/US 50. The project includes pedestrian safety measures, ADA-compliant sidewalks and curb ramps, narrowed travel lanes, a buffered multi-use path, dedicated bicycle facilities, a roundabout, critical improvements to stormwater infrastructure, improved business access, public art, lighting fixtures, new signals, upgrades to the water and sewer systems, and fiber optic communications improvements that will complete the City's core communications ring. Construction is anticipated to start near the end of 2019. Public Works staff will provide a presentation and be available to answer questions.

On June 14, 2017, the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approved the South Carson Street Conceptual Complete Streets Study. The study incorporated extensive public outreach and industry best practices to develop conceptual designs. The recommended design in the study has documented support from the businesses and property owners along the corridor as well as bicycle and pedestrian advocates.

In the spring of 2018, Carson City was awarded a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant for \$7.57 million. The highly competitive TIGER grant was awarded by the United States Department of Transportation, which described the project as an important investment in Carson City's infrastructure with a focus to improve pedestrian safety and mobility in the area, and enhance commercial and business access.

Carson City staff contracted with Traffic Works, an independent traffic engineering firm, to conduct an Intersection Alternatives Evaluation in June 2018. The evaluation was designed to be an objective assessment of intersection control alternatives for South Carson Street through the entire project corridor. The analysis concluded that the South Carson Street at Stewart Street intersection is an effective location for a roundabout, considering: existing right-of-way availability, capacity to potentially support a future connection to South Curry Street, location is compatible with the coordinated signal system along the corridor, and ability for the intersection to serve as a transitional gateway feature to the revitalized downtown area.

Carson City staff conducted a field tour during the weeks of October 15 and October 22 of 2018 to visit the businesses along the project corridor. Staff provided an overview of the project and project schedule, gathered feedback, and discussed various communication tools for the public to stay connected during the design and construction process.

On November 14, 2018, the RTC reviewed the design, provided comments and recommended approval of the 30% design to the Board of Supervisors.

The following is a tentative schedule of remaining key milestones leading up to final design of the project:

- December of 2018 – Carson City Board of Supervisors (BOS): Review and comment on “30%” project design.
- January/February of 2019 – RTC and BOS meetings: Review and comment on “60%” project design.
- February 2019 – Public workshop meeting to discuss project specifics and conduct survey.
- April/May of 2019 – RTC, and BOS meetings: Review and comment on “90%” project design.
- June/July 2019 – Complete project design.

If you have any questions regarding the South Carson Complete Streets Project, you can contact Tom Grundy, Senior Project Manager, at tgrundy@carson.org/283-7081 or Dan Stucky, City Engineer, at dstucky@carson.org/283-7084.