



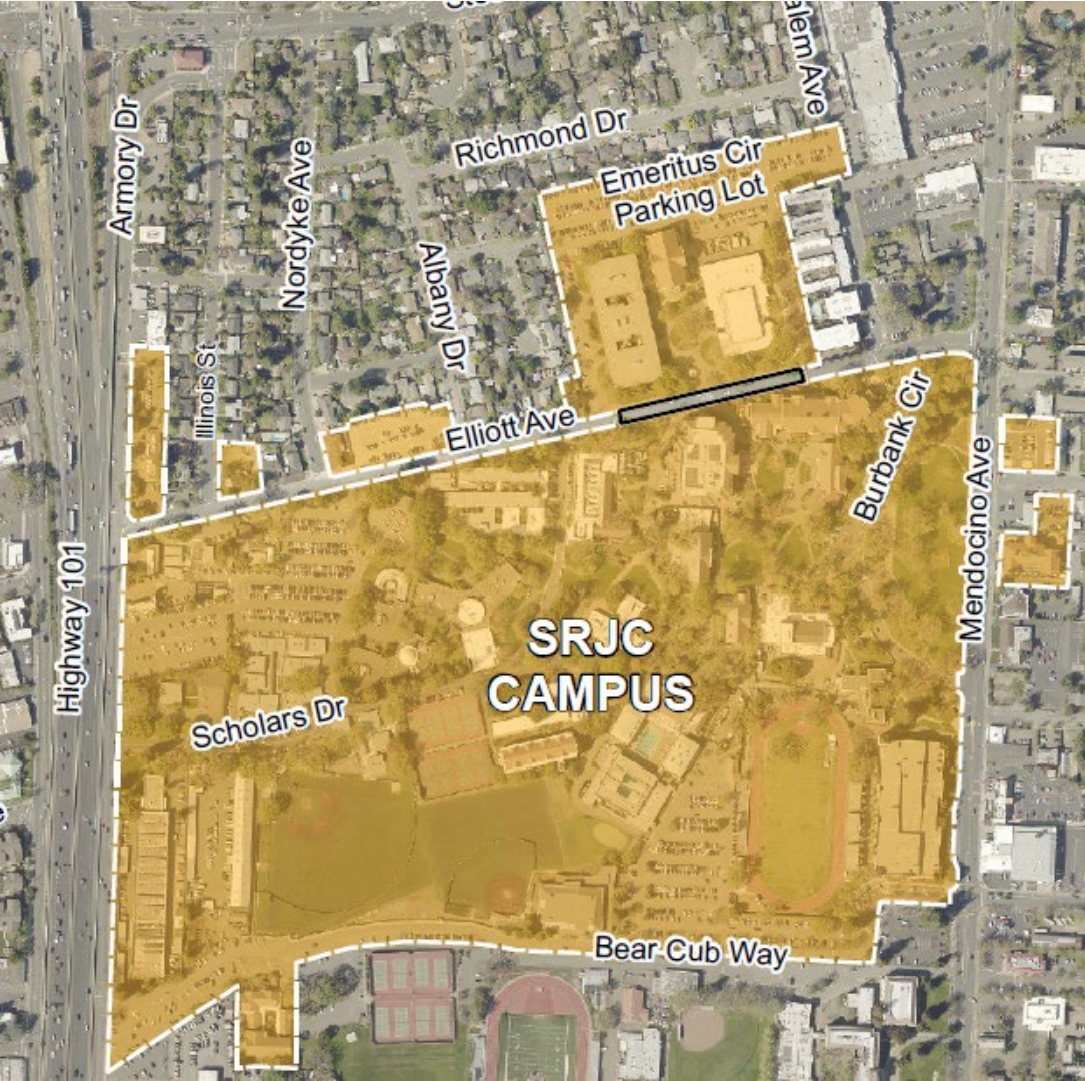
# ELLIOTT AVENUE PILOT CLOSURE PROJECT

City Council Meeting  
March 15, 2022

Rob Sprinkle, Deputy Director Traffic Engineering  
Transportation and Public Works Department

# BACKGROUND

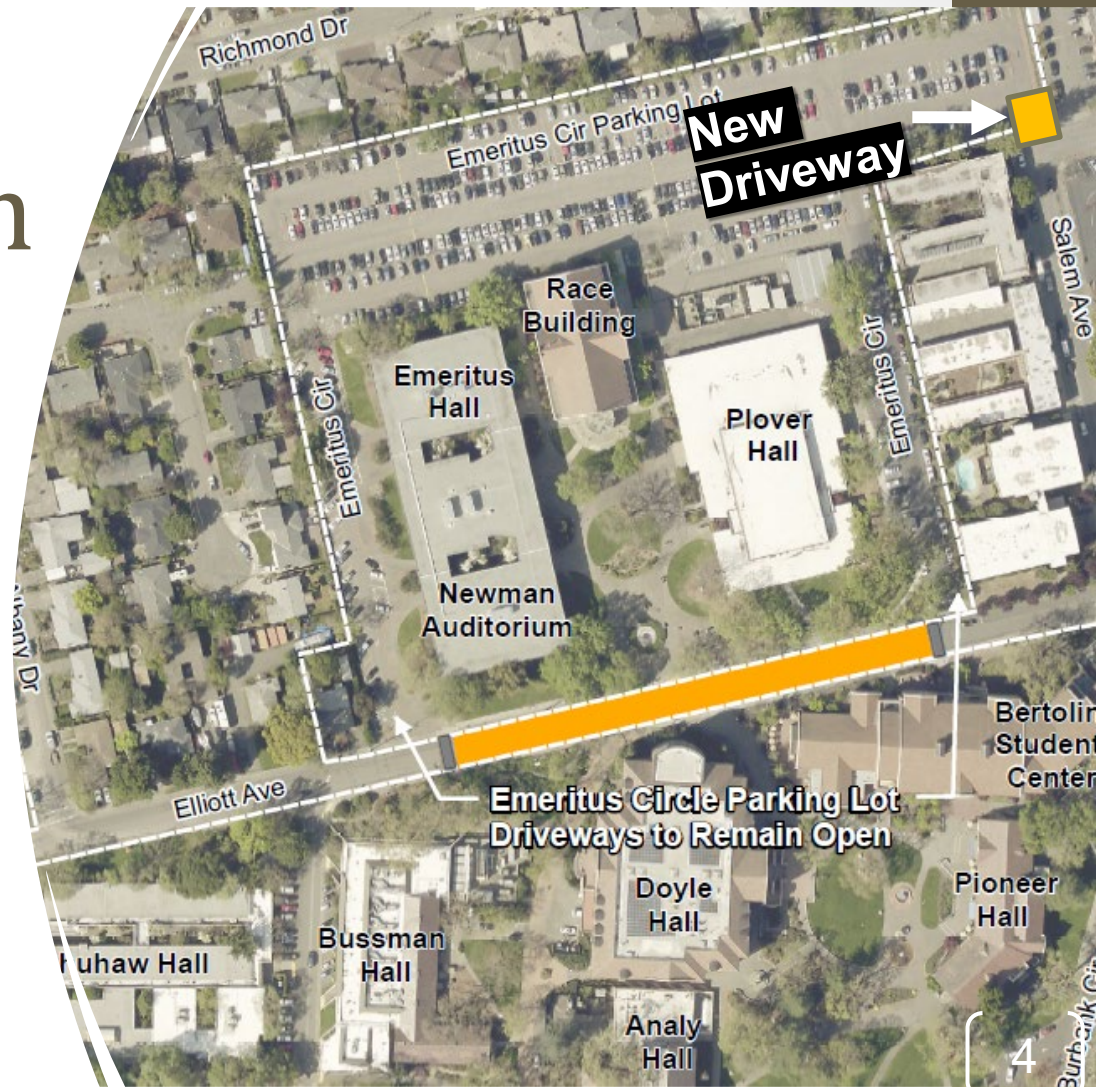
- Santa Rosa Junior College(SRJC) wants to improve their pedestrian linkage from the main campus across Elliott Avenue to Emeritus Hall, Race Building and Plover Hall.
- Over the past 10 years, additional crosswalks, signing and pedestrian fencing has been installed to channelize pedestrians.
- SRJC desires a vehicle free, pedestrian connection across Elliott Avenue.



# SRJC Campus Map

# Project Location

- Gated closure on east side of westerly driveway to Emeritus
- Gated closure on west side of easterly driveway to Emeritus
- New driveway constructed at Clement and Salem Avenue



# EMERITUS CIRCLE IMPROVEMENTS



- New two-way drive
- New sidewalks
- Accessible ramps
- Landscaping
- Asphalt and striping

*Completed April 2021*



# Public Outreach

- On November 19, 2019, the SRJC held a community meeting introducing the proposed pilot project prior to the environmental evaluation beginning
- An Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared and open for comments January 22, 2021 – February 22, 2021
- On January 18, 2022, the SRJC held a community meeting re-engaging the community on the project prior to going to the Board of Trustees on February 8, 2022, where the document was adopted.
- On February 17, 2022, the City of Santa Rosa Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board, by motion, supported the pilot closure project.

# Public Comments

- During the meetings and public review of the ISMND, comments from the public regarding the closure
  - Inconvenience for residents using Steele Ln to access Mendocino Ave
  - Concern at Steele Ln/Illinois intersection with congestion
  - Emergency access and evacuation with the road closure
  - How will this link to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing

# Circulation Study Intersections





# Potential Redistribution



# Traffic Circulation Study Findings

- The project would not generate new trips and may potentially reduce trips due to increased bicycle / pedestrian activity. It would change travel patterns in the area.
- Vehicle trips would shift away from Elliott Avenue to other routes, including through the neighborhood north of Elliott Avenue, Armory Drive, and Bear Cub Way.
- During the pilot phase, each of the 15 study intersections are expected to continue operating acceptably within the City's LOS (level of service) standard.

# Traffic Circulation Study Findings

- In Future year projections, 2040, the level of service at Steele Lane and Mendocino Avenue reduces to LOS E without and with the proposed project.
- Mitigation would include the addition of a northbound left turn lane, which would eliminate the bike lanes and be considered a significant impact by CEQA.
- Operations at Steele Lane and Illinois Avenue would experience an increase in delay that could be mitigated with the addition of a right turn lane.

# Next steps

- If implementation is approved by Council, the project would be constructed in Summer 2022, and evaluated through 2023.
- SRJC will hold two additional meetings, one in February 2023 and one in November 2023 for feedback.
- STEM and housing planned to open in Fall 2023 and further counts and analysis would be gathered at that time.
- Feedback from the SRJC and the surrounding neighborhood will be collected to note impacts prior to any permanent closure.
- City Council would provide final approval for road closure.

# RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Transportation and Public Works Department that Council, by resolution, approve the temporary road closure of Elliott Avenue between the West Emeritus Driveway and East Emeritus Driveway to enhance pedestrian connectivity for students across Elliott Avenue, for the duration of 16 months beginning in Summer 2022 as a pilot project to evaluate the impact a permanent closure may have.