

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: CHRIS CATBAGAN, ASSOCIATE ENGINEER  
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND  
MITIGATION AND MONITORING PROGRAM; APPROVAL OF  
THE FULTON ROAD WIDENING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
BETWEEN GUERNEVILLE ROAD AND PINER ROAD

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Transportation and Public Works Department that Council, by resolution, 1) adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Fulton Road Widening Improvement Project between Guerneville Road and Piner Road; 2) approve the Project; and 3) adopt a Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) for the Project.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This proposed resolution will adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and approve the Project for the Fulton Road Widening Improvements from Guerneville Road to Piner Road. The Mitigation & Monitoring Program (MMP) will also be adopted for the Project.

This resolution supports Council Goal 3: Provide Leadership for Environmental Initiatives 1) Improve transportation network to reduce vehicle miles traveled and promote multi-modal transportation.

BACKGROUND

In 2015, the City entered Cooperative Funding Agreement No. M30406 with the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) to enable the development of transportation improvements on the southern half of Phase 1 on Fulton Road between Guerneville Road and Piner Road.

The Fulton Road Improvements are to be delivered in two phases. Phase 1 improvements from Guerneville Road to Wood Road includes widening Fulton Road

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into two lanes in each direction with sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides. Phase 1 is composed of a northern and a southern reach on Fulton Road. The Fulton Road northern reach of Phase 1 – Wood Road to Piner Road was completed in 2008 with development fees. Phase 2 improvements include a grade separated interchange to replace the signalized intersection of Fulton Road and State Highway 12.

The environmental document for the improvements on the Fulton Road northern reach of Phase 1 – Wood Road to Piner Road was completed prior to its widening construction in 2008. Therefore, no action is needed regarding this segment.

In regards to the Fulton Road southern reach of Phase 1 - Guerneville Road to Piner Road, the Project would reconstruct and rehabilitate Fulton Road to a four-lane regional/arterial street as envisioned in the Santa Rosa General Plan. The Project would include roadway widening, new vehicle travel lanes, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, bio-retention areas, bus stops, landscaping, utility relocations, storm water facilities, and property acquisitions and easements. An Initial Study (IS) was prepared and completed in 2017 for this segment to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This IS is the environmental document which describes why the Project is being proposed and the potential impacts to the existing environment.

The City of Santa Rosa must comply with CEQA when it undertakes an activity defined by CEQA as a "Project." CEQA is a statute that requires state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible.

The IS completed for the Fulton Road Widening Improvements from Guerneville Road to Piner Road demonstrates that the proposed Project could have a significant effect on biological and cultural resources, but with implementation of mitigation measures, those impacts will be reduced to a level considered less than significant.

A proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was issued for public notice and review for 30 days, beginning on June 23, 2017 and ending in July 24, 2017. The IS/MND documents were sent to the State Clearinghouse for a 30-day public review period and distribution to pertinent state agencies. The IS/MND, which is considered a CEQA document, was sent to local resource agencies and posted on the City's Transportation & Public Works Department website. A public notice was also sent to landowners in the vicinity of the Project and posted in the local newspaper.

Comments from the public notice and review have been addressed, but no substantial revisions to the IS/MND have been identified. The City has recently found that an easement with Sonoma County will be required to construct the Project. In the context of the CEQA document, no revisions are necessary. Although a County easement was

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not listed in the Project Description under “approvals”, other County approvals were listed, and the County, as a Responsible Agency, was provided with the draft CEQA document, as required under CEQA. The City has fulfilled the basic CEQA requirements as it relates to notifying Responsible Agencies.

After providing notice of intent to adopt a proposed MND, the City, as the CEQA lead agency, can make a decision regarding the Project approval for the Fulton Road Widening Improvements. The City must adopt the MND for the Fulton Road Widening Improvement Project between Guerneville Road and Piner Road, approve the Project, and adopt a Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) for the Project in order to proceed with the next steps in implementing the Project.

An MMP has been written and incorporated into the MND. The MMP will be used by City staff, contractors, agencies, and monitoring personnel during and after the Project to ensure effective implementation of the adopted mitigation measures outlined in the MND.

The City should adopt the MND because no new avoidable significant effect has been identified. Responses have been prepared for all submitted comments, which are presented in the final IS/MND documents.

A lead agency cannot approve a project until it adopts the MND. The MND itself comprises the agency’s finding that there are no significant impacts. All mitigation measures that are the lead agency’s responsibility must be made conditions of approval or otherwise imposed.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

On August 4, 2015, the City Council, by Resolution No. 28674, approved Cooperative Funding Agreement No. M30406 between Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) and the City of Santa Rosa for Measure M funds for Fulton Road Widening Improvements.

On June 21, 2016, the City Council, by motion, approved work order #A010070-2011-62, for Preliminary Design and Environmental Documentation for the proposed road widening improvements to Fulton Road between Guerneville Road and Piner Road with GHD Incorporated of Santa Rosa, Ca.

On February 14, 2017, City Council, by Resolution RES-2017-026, approved the establishment of an Underground Utility District (UUD) on Fulton Road between Guerneville Road and Piner Road.

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On August 8, 2017, the City Council, by Resolution RES-2017-148, appropriated \$1,200,000 of Measure M funds to assist with the Plans, Specifications, and Estimate (PS&E) and Right-of-Way (R/W) phase for the Fulton Road Widening Improvements from Guerneville Road to Piner Road.

ANALYSIS

This proposed action will adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and approve the Fulton Road Widening Project from Guerneville Road to Piner Road.

The Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) determined that the proposed Fulton Road Widening Improvements from Guerneville Road to Piner Road would not result in significant impacts to the environment with the incorporation and implementation of mitigation measures.

The City's adoption of the MND and the MMP would allow the City to take action as a Project, which would continue to allow the City to complete Phase 1 improvements from Guerneville Road to Wood Road.

Upon adoption of the MND and approval of the Project by the City Council, a Notice of Determination (NOD) will be filed with the Sonoma County Clerk's Office and the State Clearinghouse, completing the environmental review process.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this action does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund.

All potential environmental review fees will be funded by the 2004 voter approved Traffic Relief Act for Sonoma County Expenditure Plan and Ordinance, commonly called "Measure M". Under the Cooperative Agreement, the Sonoma County Transportation Authority would provide up to \$8,700,000 of Measure M funds for Phase 1 of the Fulton Road Improvements.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for the Project and circulated for 30 days starting on June 23, 2017. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration was published in the Press Democrat and posted in accordance with the CEQA requirements on June 23, 2017.

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BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Response to Comments and Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)
- Attachment 2 – Mitigation & Monitoring Program
- Resolution

CONTACT

Chris Catbagan, Associate Engineer, [ccatbagan@srcity.org](mailto:ccatbagan@srcity.org), (707) 543-4521  
David Montague, Supervising Engineer, [dmontague@srcity.org](mailto:dmontague@srcity.org), (707) 543-3860