

**ATTACHMENT**  
Slow Streets Program Presentation

Attachment is forthcoming as an additional document  
prior to the meeting.



# Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission Agenda Report

ITEM NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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**DATE:** December 13, 2021

**FROM:** H. Ted Gerber, Acting Director of Public Works  
Tatevik Barakazyan, Associate Engineer

**SUBJECT:** **Slow Streets Program and Metro Open Streets Cycle 3 Funding Update**

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## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission (MTIC):

1. Provide feedback on the Traffic Study and the Slow Streets Program; and
2. Provide recommendation to staff to present to City Council on the choice of program equipment to be purchased with the expiring Metro Cycle 3 funds.

## **Background**

On September 27, 2018, the Metro Board awarded \$4 million for Cycle 3 of the Open Streets Grant Program to fund a series of regional car-free events for people to walk or bike, of which the City was able to secure \$420,000 to use towards the 626 Golden Streets Arroyo Fest event. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Arroyo Fest event was canceled and the funds were reallocated to support the pandemic recovery by implementing the Slow Streets program. The City's Slow Streets Program is intended to provide space for residents to safely walk and roll, while practicing physical distancing, and to support local businesses during the pandemic, by allowing them to bring their operations outside.

On October 12, 2021, a Professional Services Agreement was executed with Iteris, Inc. (Iteris) to conduct a traffic study to analyze the impacts of temporary closures of a travel lane in each direction on Mission Street, between Orange Grove Avenue and Fair Oaks Avenue, and a full street closure of Meridian Avenue between Mission Street and El Centro Street. Subsequently, on October 20, 2021, a Professional Services Agreement was executed with Alta Planning + Design, Inc. (Alta) for the development of the Slow Streets program.

The City has until December 31, 2021 to expend the Metro Cycle 3 funds. The City staff estimated that approximately \$300,000 in grant funding will not be expended by the December 31, 2021 expiration. As a measure to utilize the funding prior to this date, City staff has explored opportunities to utilize the funding on other eligible costs. These include related efforts that have already be incurred to date, and/or materials that can purchased in 2021, but used in 2022 for the Slow Streets Program.

## **Discussion**

### Slow Streets Program

Iteris, Inc. completed the traffic study on the subject streets on December 6, 2021, and City staff has reviewed the existing conditions report and the analysis of the alternative scenarios for Mission Street and Meridian Avenue. Some of the key findings of the report are as follows:

- The closure of Meridian Avenue between Mission Street and El Centro Street would result in an increased delay along Fremont Street while reducing volume along Meridian Avenue.
- The queueing and stacking resulting from a lack of turning pocket storage and linear capacity of the through lanes on Mission Street, causes significant spillback into adjacent intersections, which limit the ability of intersections to process vehicles.

Although, a significant change is not anticipated in operational characteristics of the study area, the next step is to identify potential mitigation measures, such as traffic signal timing adjustment, and addition or lengthening of turn lanes.

Additionally, Alta Planning + Design, Inc. completed the pre-design outreach and prepared preliminary engineering drawings illustrating the striping, curb extensions, parking and parklet layouts and dimensions to properly install the project demonstration improvements along Mission Street, Hermosa Street, Grand Avenue, and Oak Street. City staff have reviewed the draft plans and provided comments to Alta.

### Metro Open Streets Cycle 3 Funding Expiration

Given that installation-ready design drawings and necessary public outreach cannot be completed prior to the grant expiration at the end of 2021, staff and the consultants have now prioritized completing project tasks related to program equipment expenditures. City staff are seeking recommendation from MTIC to present to Council on the choice of equipment to be purchased, while maximizing the use of the funds at a reduced risk. Elements to consider include the use of protective barrier systems, types of seating, styling and aesthetic, sidewalk continuity, and program use, such as movable restaurant seating, fixed recreational seating, green areas, public art areas, etc. Staff met with the MTIC COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee to discuss the Iteris report and ideas on program equipment expenditures. Staff is recommending that such funds be used to purchase pay for items already expended this year, such as k-rail rental, as well as new program equipment, including traffic devices, parklet structures, community seating areas, temporary median planters, etc.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The Council appropriated \$232,797 of the \$420,000 repurposed Metro Cycle 3 Open Streets Grant Funds to the Golden Street Grant Line Item 249-2010-2011-8170, Professional Services in Management Services. However, it is anticipated that only approximately \$120,000 will be spent on the project by December 31, 2021, leaving approximately \$300,000 in grant funding unused, unless additional expenditures are appropriated. The \$420,000 in available grant funding requires a match of \$105,000, which can be paid through staff time or in-kind contributions.

Slow Streets Program and Metro Open Streets Cycle 3 Funding Update

December 13, 2021

Page 3 of 3

**Public Notification of Agenda Item**

The public was made aware that this item was to be considered this evening by virtue of its inclusion on the legally publicly noticed agenda, and posting of the same agenda and reports on the City's website.

**Attachment**

Slow Streets Program Presentation