Date: September 20, 2016

To: City Manager for Council Information

From: Director of Public Works
       Chief of Police

Subject: San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail Reroutes on Stadium Event Days

Prior to the opening of Levi’s Stadium (Stadium), staff worked with the San Francisco 49ers to discuss security precautions during event days. During this period, several incidents at high profile locations worldwide occurred during major events. This influenced the decision to close the San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail (Creek Trail) to limit security breaches, as the Creek Trail enters the secured area and directly crosses the path of Stadium patrons after passing the security checkpoint.

In the two years since the Stadium opening, the bicycle community and other community members have expressed a desire to have the Creek Trail open during events as the trail is intended to serve the general community. Staff held meetings with the City’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Police Department, the 49ers and members of the public to discuss options.

Staff is proposing to address the concerns via a near term and long term reroutes. The near term action is to construct a trail parallel to the Creek Trail along the Santa Clara Valley District’s (SCVWD) right-of-way (along the east levee of the San Tomas Aquino Creek) and then along the existing San Francisco Public Utilities Commission’s (SFPUC) Hetch Hetchy right-of-way, connecting to the Creek Trail at Agnew Road and at the Santa Clara Golf and Tennis Club. This near term solution, with an estimated construction cost of $1,000,000, has the benefit of keeping the public on a Class I facility (separated bike facility) for a longer distance instead of the current situation of utilizing bike lanes within the existing street network for most of the entire reroute.

The long term plan of action, with an estimated construction cost of $3,100,000, would be to grade separate the Creek Trail below the Stadium access points (bridges) to minimize security conflicts. This solution would still need to undergo environmental analysis, detailed design, permitting by various governmental regulatory agencies, and further security review by the Police Department. A map of both near and long term trail reroutes is attached.
Both reroutes have been preliminarily discussed with the SFPUC and SCVWD staff and conceptually approved, but will need further analysis and discussion prior to formal approval for construction. Staff has applied for federal grant funds and submitted both projects for construction funding as part of the upcoming Envision Silicon Valley Sales Tax Measure. Subject to award of grant funds and voter approval of the Sales Tax Measure, staff anticipates that the earliest project funding would be available in 2018. Staff will make a brief presentation based on the proposed reroutes.

Director of Public Works

APPROVED:

Rajeev Batra
Acting City Manager

Documents Related to this Report:
1) Map

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