



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2018

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER 

BY: RAMIRO ADEVA, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS/CITY ENGINEER 

SUBJECT: KANAN CORRIDOR UPDATE

Kanan Road is one of the most highly traveled roadways in all of the Conejo Valley. Carrying upwards of 40,000 vehicles per day in some areas, the Kanan Corridor presents daily safety and operational challenges for motorists from both Los Angeles County and Ventura County, and has a direct impact to the conveyance of traffic to and from the U.S. 101 mainline. Additionally, large volumes of traffic use the corridor to access a number of schools spanning over two districts. The corridor also serves as one of the few direct connection points to recreational amenities in the Santa Monica Mountains and coastal beaches along Pacific Coast Highway (PCH). The task to find ways to reduce congestion along the corridor is a daunting and complicated task.

Over the years, surveys, studies and improvement projects have been administered and completed along this corridor by the City, all seeking to improve traffic flow. More recently, in September 2017, the City Council reiterated their commitment to improving the Kanan Corridor and awarded a professional services contract to Michael Baker International (MBI) to complete a Project Study Report (PSR) for the Kanan Corridor, from Thousand Oaks Boulevard and Cornell Way.

In March 2018, staff presented a multi-phased approach to implementing improvements to the Kanan Road operations, which was a combination of both short-term and long-term improvements, which included the Kanan PSR.

A number of short-term improvements were completed in June 2018, providing updated signal timing along the corridor by implementation of the following:

- Upgraded signal software at City signals to better connect with Caltrans signals
- Updated signal timing plans for all peak period operations (increase signal timing capacity)
- Installed GPS units at all signals, including Caltrans ramp intersections

Long-term improvements are underway with the Kanan PSR Project. MBI has completed data collection, which included base mapping and baseline modeling, and is currently working on development of initial design alternatives for assessment. Concurrently, Caltrans has moved forward the final Cooperative Agreement to their Headquarters for review and approval. The Agreement solidifies the agencies role in the final approval of the PSR, which is the first phase for any future design and construction for the

Interchange, which is integral to the Kanan Corridor. The kick-off meeting between Caltrans and the City is expected before the end of October. It is anticipated that the PSR will be completed by June/July 2019.

In addition to the aforementioned short-term and long-term improvements, there have been other ongoing efforts to improve traffic flow. With support of the City Council, the Mayor requested staff to initiate discussions, with both the Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Oak Park Unified School District, to discuss ways in which the school districts may be able to assist in reducing the corridor's congestion. Since the kick-off meeting in January with the school boards, staff has completed a School Area Traffic Study. In August, the City presented a summary of the detailed analyses from the traffic study, which provided options of staggered school start times to be moved from the peak time periods. The school districts are currently reviewing these alternatives and will provide feedback to the City on possible scenarios that could be supported for implementation at the next follow-up meeting.

The City Council's ongoing support for these projects demonstrates their commitment to prioritize actions that seek to improve traffic flow along this congested, regional arterial. Staff will continue to update the City Council in the future as new information becomes available.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully requests the City Council provide feedback and/or comments on the planned course of action moving forward.