

April 10, 2023

Delivered via email

To: Mayor Lesa Heebner
Deputy Mayor David Zito
Councilmembers Kristi Becker, Jewel Edson, Jill MacDonald
Cc: City Manager Greg Wade
City of Solana Beach

Re: Item D1. Draft Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2023/24

Honorable Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councilmembers,

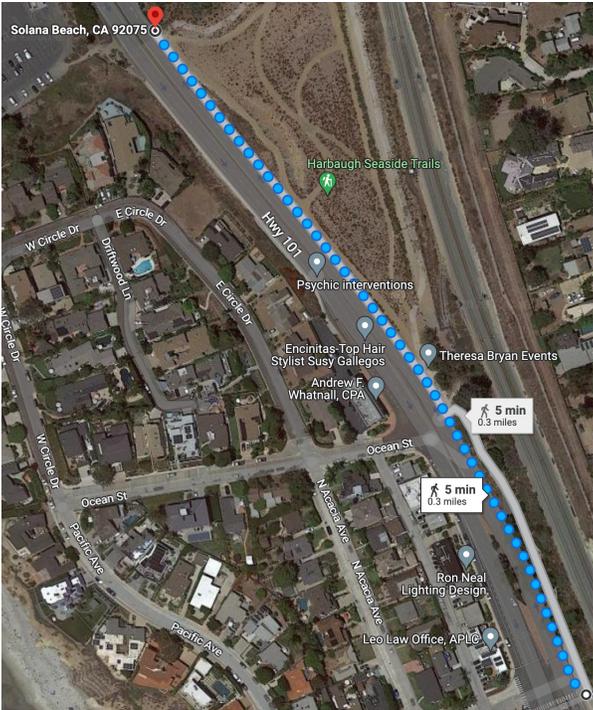
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft work plan for fiscal year 2023/2024. Among the many important priorities listed in the workplan, we'd like to encourage council to prioritize completion of the safe pedestrian crosswalk from Harbaugh Trails to Seaside.



Harbaugh Seaside Trails and the adjacent lagoon are very popular for pedestrians and hikers, and the addition of a pedestrian underpass under the railroad tracks has improved access to Harbaugh Trails to many residents of northwest Solana Beach. However, an unintended consequence of the opening of these trails is that many more pedestrians are now crossing Highway 101 from Harbaugh trails to access Seaside Beach. Currently they must run across 4 lanes of high speed traffic to do this. The frequency of this occurrence is demonstrated by the fact that Google Street View captured three people doing just this (Google Image capture from September 2022):



The only option for pedestrians to safely cross 101 from this location is to walk 0.3 miles south, cross at the light at Solana Vista Drive, and then walk back 0.3 miles north to Seaside Beach. Pedestrians will not add a 10 minute, ½ mile detour just to cross the street.



There is clearly a public safety issue at hand here. There is significant community support for addressing this issue as well. We urge the cities of Encinitas and Solana Beach to continue to work together to both improve beach access and prevent pedestrian injury and death by developing a safe crossing at this location as soon as possible. From the 2022 work plan, we see that engineering analysis supports a fully signalized pedestrian crossing, and we agree that is the safest and most effective option for ensuring everyone’s safety. The 2019 and 2021 work

plans also included researching additional traffic calming measures for this portion of 101, which would also be a welcome improvement.

Given that this item has been on the work plans for over 4 years, we respectfully urge council to commit to developing a safe-crossing project and sharing the project for public comment this year, with the goal of identifying the necessary funding to begin construction some time in 2024.

Sincerely,

Kristin Brinner

Chris Novak

Shawna McGarry

Brian Lannutti

Jonathan Goodmacher

Jill Cooper

Karl Rudnick

Residents of Solana Beach

2022 work plan:

9. Highway 101 Pedestrian Crossing at North End of City

Summary: With the installation of the pedestrian tunnel underneath the railroad track near the north end of the City, there have been requests to investigate the installation of a pedestrian crossing across Highway 101 in the vicinity of the pedestrian tunnel and Cardiff/Seaside State Beach. A very high-level study was performed that identified three alternatives.

The first option would construct a pedestrian bridge across Highway 101 at a cost of approximately \$2.5 million. The second option would construct a pedestrian tunnel underneath Highway 101 in the same general location as the tunnel under the railroad track at a cost of approximately \$1.5 million. The third option would construct an at-grade crossing, with full traffic signals in both the north and south bound direction at a cost of approximately \$500,000. All of the costs indicated above would be for construction only and would not include environmental studies or right of way acquisition. Option 3 most likely would not involve major environmental impacts.

FY 2022/23 Objective: Design pedestrian crossing across, or under, Highway 101 at north end of City near the Cardiff/Seaside State Beach. In addition, research the potential to narrow Highway 101 for traffic calming. After collaboration with the City of Encinitas and preliminary engineering analysis, a full signalized at-grade pedestrian crossing would be the preferred option. Engineering analysis supports a full signalized pedestrian crossing. Staff is seeking City Council's direction for preparation of final design and implementation phase.

Key Tasks:

- Evaluate alternative at-grade signalized crossing options.
- Start design.
- Pursue cost-sharing agreement with City of Encinitas and State Parks.
- Obtain required permits.
- Work with Encinitas on traffic calming measures and good transitions leading into and exiting City limits.

2021 work plan:

9. Highway 101 Pedestrian Crossing at North End of City (Timeframe: 12 to 18 months)

Summary: With the installation of the pedestrian tunnel underneath the railroad track near the north end of the City, there have been requests to investigate the installation of a pedestrian crossing across Highway 101 in the vicinity of the pedestrian tunnel and Cardiff/Seaside State Beach. A very high-level study was performed that identified three alternatives.

The first option would construct a pedestrian bridge across Highway 101 at a cost of approximately \$2.5 million. The second option would construct a pedestrian tunnel underneath Highway 101 in the same general location as the tunnel under the railroad track at a cost of approximately \$1.5 million. The third option would construct an at-grade crossing, with full traffic signals in both the north and south bound direction at a cost of approximately \$500,000. All of the costs indicated above would be for construction only and would not include environmental studies or right of way acquisition. Option 3 most likely would not involve major environmental impacts.

FY 2021/22 Objective: Design and construct pedestrian crossing across, or under, Highway 101 at north end of City near the Cardiff/Seaside State Beach. In addition, research the potential to narrow Highway 101 for traffic calming.

Key Tasks:

- Present crossing options to City Council.
- Select preferred option.
- Start design.
- Pursue cost-sharing agreement with City of Encinitas and State Parks.
- Obtain required permits.

Estimated Cost: Design costs would be determined once an option is selected. Construction costs are estimated to range from \$500,000 to \$2.5 million depending on the option selected.

2019 work plan:

~~40.9.~~ Highway 101 Pedestrian Crossing at North End of City (Timeframe: 12 to 18 months)

Summary: With the installation of the pedestrian tunnel underneath the railroad track near the north end of the City, there have been requests to investigate the installation of a pedestrian crossing across Highway 101 in the vicinity of the pedestrian tunnel and Cardiff/Seaside State Beach. A very high-level study was performed that identified three alternatives.

The first option would construct a pedestrian bridge across Highway 101 at a cost of approximately \$2.5 million. The second option would construct a pedestrian tunnel underneath Highway 101 in the same general location as the tunnel under the railroad track at a cost of approximately \$1.5 million. The third option would construct an at-grade crossing, with full traffic signals in both the north and south bound direction at a cost of approximately \$500,000. All of the costs indicated above would be for construction only and would not include environmental studies or right of way acquisition. Option 3 most likely would not involve major environmental impacts.

FY ~~2018/19~~2019/20 Objective: Design and construct pedestrian crossing across, or under, Highway 101 at north end of City near the Cardiff/Seaside State Beach. In addition, research the potential to narrow Highway 101 for traffic calming.

Key Tasks:

- Present crossing options to City Council.
- Select preferred option.
- Start design.
- Pursue cost-sharing agreement with City of Encinitas and State Parks.
- Obtain required permits.