

City Council and Staff,

At the September 15th 2020 city council meeting, we were given an informational presentation on Pavement Maintenance Plan and Capital Improvement by our at the time Engineering Manager Henry Mikus. This report and those like it our invaluable as they provide a clear perspective on the state of infrastructure and the efforts or lack there of to maintaining and repairing our cities roadways. It is unfortunate that the city has chosen not to actively recruit for the replacement of Mr. Mikus's position, with the concern here being that the continued use of subcontracted workforce in this capacity will result in reports of this kind going absent or lacking the institutional knowledge that comes from a full time city employee committed to the role our city needs.

In this report we learned that 1/3 of our city streets are rated as "very poor". It was also stated in this report that although historically the majority of pavement project funding has come from a ¼ cent city sales tax, that in recent years much of this money has been utilized to balance other general fund expenditures. The report goes on to discuss the additional funding sources that are regularly available to the city in the hundreds of thousands of dollars that could be used to fund transportation, safety, and paving. The report is clear that even with the expected reduction in city revenue due to the pandemic, the city has chosen to reduce even further it's efforts in transportation, safety, and paving.

The agenda item proposed location of Palm Ave. meets the description of the report as "very poor". The attached photo makes clear the level of surface degradation. While council is sure to discuss the proposed change in traffic, perhaps this discussion should include the needed repairs and improvements to this site. In particular as this photo indicates the lack of sidewalks in this section seems both dangerous and out of character for the existing neighborhood's aesthetic (to reference CIR 2-9). With the proposed changes to the traffic in this section I would see this as a great opportunity to make the needed changes to incorporate sidewalks in section that is missing. Given that the street is moving to one-way traffic, the ability for the roadway to be made narrower to accommodate the sidewalk seems like an easy way to not have to interfere with the existing fence line at the site of missing sidewalk.

It is my hope that council regularly seeks to improve upon and adapt recommendations of city staff such as this item and to make a concerted effort to address the concerns of the report from September of last year and provide regular funding to infrastructure projects instead of just those that receive outside funding such as that which was secured for Bodega Ave. Phase I.

- Kyle Falbo

