Newell Road Bridge Replacement

June 19, 2019





Location Map





Purpose and Need

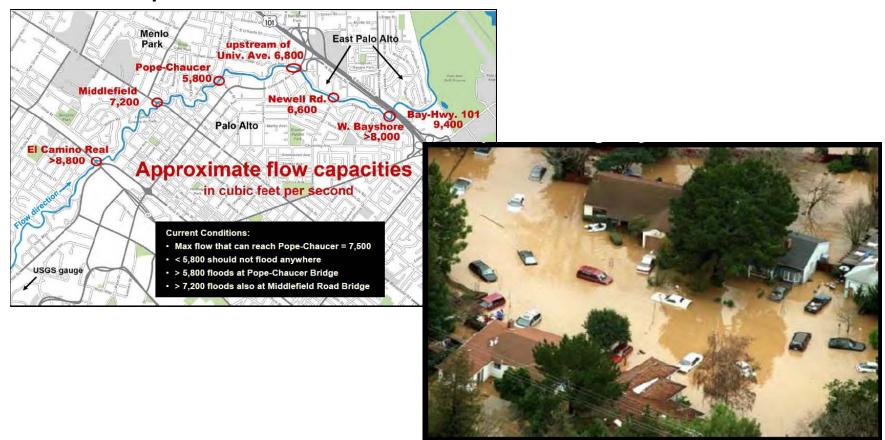
- The existing bridge is classified as Functionally Obsolete (FO)
- does not accommodate two-way vehicular traffic
- does not provide access for pedestrians or bicyclist
- The sight distance is substandard and poor drivability due to steep vertical profile





Purpose and Need

The bridge reduces the flows that can pass within San Francisquito Creek





Project Objectives

- Maintain connections for vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian transportation across San Francisquito Creek at Newell Road while avoiding:
 - diversion of a significant number of vehicles to adjacent streets;
 - a substantial increase in the number of vehicles using Newell Road; and,
 - an increase in average vehicle speed on Newell Road.



Project Objectives (Continued)

- Improve multi-modal access and safety across San Francisquito Creek at Newell Road
- Upgrade the channel width beneath the bridge to allow for the 50-year storm event (7,500 cfs)





Project History

- Community Meetings
 - June 27, 2012 Began Community Engagement
 - January 8, 2013 Commitment to Preparing a Full EIR
 - October 17, 2013 Presentation of 8 alternatives and screening criteria
 - February 27, 2014 Screening Analysis findings
 - June 22, 2016 Presentation of Five Project Alternatives



Eight Alternatives Considered & Results

Description	100-Year*** Storm Protection?	LOS Impact?	TIRE Impact?	Full Multi-Modal Access Benefits?	Advance or Eliminate
No Build (keep existing bridge)	No	No	No	No	Advance*
Remove existing bridge	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Eliminate
Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Eliminate
Bicycle Pedestrian Bridge with Emergency Access	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Eliminate
One-Lane Bridge with Bi- Directional Traffic	Yes	Yes**	No	Yes	Advance
Two-lane bridge on existing alignment	Yes	No	No	Yes	Advance
Two-Lane Bridge with Partial Realignment of Newell Road	Yes	No	No	Yes	Advance
Two Lane Bridge with Full Realignment of Newell Road	Yes	No	No	Yes	Advance

- *The "No Build" option is always assessed in the EIR/EA
- ** Did not meet the threshold for significance but is notable
- *** Original Criteria in 2013, 70-year storm is possible



Alternatives Carried forward for full Analysis

- No Build Alternative (Bridge remains as is)
- Alternative 1: Bridge w/bi-directional one-lane w/ traffic signal control
- Alternative 2: Two-lane bridge with bicycle/pedestrian access along Existing Alignment (LPA)
- Alternative 3: Two-lane bridge with bicycle/pedestrian access with partial Realignment of Newell Road
- Alternative 4: Two-lane bridge with bicycle/pedestrian access with full Realignment of Newell Road

Alternative 1



Bi-Directional One-Lane Traffic W/Signal Control





Alternative 2: (Proposed Project)



Alternative 3



Alternative 4



Alternative 2: Benefits of the Existing Alignment



- Least* disturbance to existing trees and creek bank
- Least impact on adjacent residents.
 - Shorter retaining walls
 - Maintains existing distance from adjacent neighbors
- No Operation or Maintenance costs (power and fiber)
- Palo Alto and East Palo Alto staff are in agreement

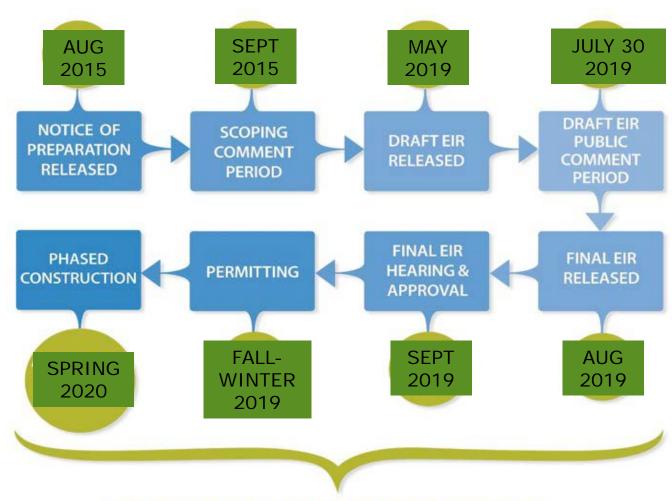


Environmental Review Process

- The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) require state, local, and other agencies to evaluate the environmental implications of their actions
- The City of Palo Alto is the Lead Agency for the CEQAspecified Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Caltrans (administrator of federal grant funding) will serve as the Lead Agency for the NEPA-specified Environmental Assessment (EA)
- The City of East Palo Alto is a Responsible Agency



Schedule



ONGOING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Newell Road Bridge Replacement

June 19, 2019

