



City Council Staff Report

Subject: Whitney Ranch Parkway Widening Project

Date: August 13, 2024

Submitted By: David Mohlenbrok, Director of Community Development

Department: Community Development

Recommendation:

- A. Adopt a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Rocklin Approving the Plans and Specifications for the Whitney Ranch Parkway Widening Project and Authorizing City Staff to Call for Bids.
- B. Adopt a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Rocklin Adopting a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Whitney Ranch Parkway Widening Project.

Background:

Whitney Ranch Parkway between State Route 65 (SR 65) and University Avenue is predominantly a 2- and 4-lane roadway with a proposed ultimate 6-lane configuration. Placer County Department of Public Works currently has construction drawings to construct this section of Whitney Ranch Parkway to the ultimate 6-lane configuration and install a traffic signal at the University Avenue/Whitney Ranch Parkway intersection as part of its Placer Parkway Phase 1 project.

Due to several commercial and residential projects in this area of Rocklin anticipated to come on line in the next 24 months, and understanding that these projects will likely be open for business or occupied by residents before Placer County is able to widen the roadway and install a new traffic signal at Whitney Ranch Parkway/University Avenue, City staff has coordinated with County staff to take the lead of roadway widening on Whitney Ranch Parkway and the traffic signal installation, but only within Rocklin city limits, thus avoiding the extensive coordination for roadway widening work performed in Caltrans right-of-way.

This approach permits the commercial businesses on the southwest corner of University Avenue/Whitney Ranch Parkway, including the Whitney Ranch Retail center with Nugget Market as the anchor tenant, to open for business without significantly impacting traffic conditions. In addition to work on Whitney Ranch Parkway, the City will construct a second northbound left turn lane from University Avenue to westbound Whitney Ranch Parkway, consistent with the Northwest Rocklin Annexation Area Plan.

Staff has coordinated with Placer County, and County staff support the City delivering that

portion of the work within Rocklin city limits. The Placer Parkway Phase 1 project is funded by the South Placer Regional Transportation Authority (SPRTA) fee program. On June 26, 2024, SPRTA's Board of Directors allocated \$3.5M in funding to the City of Rocklin to pay for those improvements the County would have otherwise constructed. For City work unrelated to the County's Placer Parkway Phase 1 project, the City proposes to use traffic impact fees (Fund 325) for construction consistent with the 2025 – 2029 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) approved by the City Council on June 25, 2024.

During the past few months, the City's design team has coordinated with various outside agencies and/or parties, including Placer County, Caltrans, the Whitney Ranch Retail developer, and utility providers, and has prepared the construction plans (Attachment 2) and specifications (Attachment 3) outlining the proposed roadway widening, striping, traffic signal, and other ancillary street elements. Staff recommends the City Council approve the plans and specifications and authorize staff to call for bids.

Environmental Analysis:

The environmental analysis covering all City construction identified in the plans and specifications is set forth in the following discussion regarding two previously prepared California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents:

Placer Parkway Phase 1 Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

The roadway widening on Whitney Ranch Parkway from SR 65 to University Avenue was included in the Placer Parkway Phase 1 Improvements Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) (SCH2015052032), which was adopted by the Placer County Board of Supervisors, acting as the CEQA lead agency, on September 1, 2015. The IS/MND analyzed the associated environmental impacts of three alignments for the Placer Parkway Phase 1 project. The design of the three alignments considered were identical within the City limits. Alternative 3 was approved by the County as the preferred alignment, and includes widening of Whitney Ranch Parkway and installation of a traffic signal at the University Avenue/Whitney Ranch Parkway intersection. The City's action is consistent with the project approved by Placer County. The IS/MND adopted by Placer County was a project level document, and the City is not proposing any other action or approval at this time.

Pursuant to CEQA, the City is a responsible agency for the purposes of this proposed action. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15096, as a responsible agency, prior to reaching a decision on the project, the City must consider the environmental effects of the project as shown in the Placer Parkway Phase 1 Improvements IS/MND, and the City must mitigate or avoid only the direct or indirect environmental effects of those parts of the project which it decides to carry out, finance, or approve.

For the City Council's consideration, at the following link is the Placer Parkway Phase 1 Improvements IS/MND <https://www.rocklin.ca.us/post/placer-parkway-phase-i-improvements>. In addition, included as Exhibit A to the resolution (Attachment 5) adopting the mitigation monitoring and reporting program for the Whitney Ranch Parkway Widening Project is a memorandum summarizing a review of the germane impacts and mitigation measures from Placer County's Placer Parkway Phase 1 Improvements IS/MND that are applicable to the City's project. Exhibit B to the resolution (Attachment 6) is the mitigation monitoring and reporting program the City will use to implement the applicable mitigation measures. As Placer County's Placer Parkway Phase 1 Improvements IS/MND was not an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the City of Rocklin as a Responsible Agency is not required to make findings

required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, nor as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15093.

University Avenue Second Northbound Left Turn Lane at Whitney Ranch Parkway

The ultimate roadway configuration of University Avenue, and thus the proposed second northbound left turn lane at Whitney Ranch Parkway, was analyzed as a part of the Northwest Rocklin Annexation Area Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and associated Addendum, certified and approved by City Council Resolutions No. 2002-230 and 2008-252, respectively. The City's plans and specifications prepared for the Whitney Ranch Parkway Widening Project, including the addition of the second northbound turn lane as described above, are consistent with the ultimate roadway configuration of University Avenue that was analyzed in the 2002 EIR and associated 2008 Addendum.

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21166 and Section 15162 of California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines), no further environmental review of the project is required.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with approving the plans and specifications or adopting the CEQA mitigation measures. The cost to implement any required mitigation measures will be part of the construction contract, which will be brought back before the City Council at a future meeting for award.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Resolution A - Plans and Specifications](#)
2. [Resolution A Exhibit A - Project Plans](#)
3. [Resolution A Exhibit B - Project Specifications](#)
4. [Resolution B - Mitigation and Monitoring Report](#)
5. [Resolution B - Exhibit A - CEQA Memo](#)
6. [Resolution B - Exhibit B - Mitigation Monitoring Plan](#)