



**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
LONG RANGE PLANNING
MEMORANDUM**

Date: June 9, 2014

To: Central Board of Architectural Review
Attn: John Karamitsos

From: Rosie Dyste, Senior Planner

Subject: Los Alamos Pedestrian Circulation and Parking Plan

The Los Alamos Pedestrian Circulation and Parking Plan is a grant-funded project to design street improvements to support the community's vision of safe routes to school and downtown revitalization. Based on public input, the County and Alta Planning and Design prepared concept level designs to slow traffic and provide safer access for pedestrians and bicyclists on Bell Street (State Route 135) and Centennial Street. Public input has been provided through resident and property owner surveys and two public workshops. The County is now in the process of reviewing the concept designs with boards and commissions. The concept level planning phase will conclude with Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors presentations by February 2015.

The proposed improvements would occur in areas under County (Centennial Street) and Caltrans (Bell Street/State Route 135) jurisdiction. Preliminary review of the proposals indicates the project would comply with the zoning requirements for the Commercial (CM-LA and C-2) and Residential (7-R-1 and MHP) zone districts. The project is compatible with the policies of the Los Alamos Community Plan and portions are within the Design Control overlay zone that recognizes and protects the visual resources and unique neighborhood characteristics of the area.

PLEASE SPECIFICALLY COMMENT ON:

- Project designs in the context in the semi-rural, western town theme
- Options for pathway/sidewalk materials (the concept plans do not include or specify any particular materials)
- Options for landscaping and street trees (based on community input, the concept plans do not include landscaping)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is composed of several pedestrian-related improvements along Bell Street (State Route 135) and Centennial Street in the Los Alamos Plan area. The project area is used by

residents and tourists as well as children going to Olga Reed Elementary School. Currently there are few sidewalks, and no bicycle routes or designated trails linking residential neighborhoods to downtown and Olga Reed Elementary School. There is only one striped pedestrian crosswalk on Bell Street and residents are concerned about speeding and other traffic safety and enforcement issues. Missing sections of sidewalks along Bell Street encourage short auto trips instead of walking during multiple destination trips and lack of striped on-street parking allows for informal and inefficient parking configurations. Los Alamos Community Plan Policy CIRC-LA-1.5 encourages angled parking within the CM-LA zone district on County maintained roads.

Based on community input, the County worked with Alta Planning and Design to propose several separate but related projects with the following components:

Bell Street

- Add striping to narrow travel lanes with bike lanes and designated parallel parking spaces. Complete missing sidewalk segments in the core business area.

Bell Street Crosswalks

- Add striped crosswalks with either curb extensions or a curbed center median and rapid flashing beacons.

U.S. 101 Underpass

- Add sidewalks, lighting, and bike lanes.

Centennial Street

- Add striping to narrow the travel lanes, include bike lanes, and formalize parking between Bell and Waite.
- Add pedestrian walkway and bike lanes between Waite and Olga Reed Elementary School

Attachments

1. Concept Plan Cross Sections

cc: Anita Hodosy-McFaul, Planning and Development