



Atascadero City Council

Staff Report – Public Works Department

Atascadero Road Program

(An update report on the Atascadero Road Program)

RECOMMENDATION:

Council receive a report on the Atascadero Road Program.

DISCUSSION:

Atascadero Road Program Update

Like all cities and counties in California, Atascadero suffers from a funding short fall for road maintenance due to the aging road system and State budget reductions. Atascadero has 141 miles of City Maintained Roads and 29 miles of Non-City Maintained Roads. Atascadero's rural nature exacerbates the problem because its low population and high road miles translate to low funding levels, since many road maintenance funds are derived from population statistics.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's 1991 report to Congress states that "roadways in poor condition cost users as much as 25-30 percent more per mile than roadways in good condition." Well-timed preventative maintenance of a roadway's surface increases its service life and delays the need for expensive rehabilitation or reconstruction. Approximately \$850,000 to \$1,100,000 is required *annually* to maintain the roads in our community. The total amount of deferred rehabilitation in Atascadero is estimated to be \$15-17,000,000.

Road maintenance and rehabilitation for Circulation Plan Roads have been budgeted at \$1.69 million for fiscal years 2005-2007, yet even with funding at that level, there remains a huge deficit.

The Atascadero Road Program was developed to focus the City's efforts in maintaining and protecting the roads of Atascadero in an organized, efficient and cost-effective manner. While the program has been effective with the funding that it has been given,

it is clear that the existing sources (Gas Tax, General Fund, Local Transportation Funds and STIP funds) are inadequate to completely fund this commitment. Additionally, the stability of some of the current funding sources is uncertain.

The Atascadero Road Program has made significant progress in improving the roads and decreasing the maintenance deficit since it's inception in 1999. The Program has reduce the deferred maintenance by more than \$7-8 million in the last seven (7) years..

Some of the highlights of this Program are:

- Created strategies for road repair, maintenance and rehabilitation to use our funds effectively and provide a well maintained circulation system for the traveling public. Well-timed preventative maintenance of a roadway surface increases its service life and delays the need for expensive rehabilitation or reconstruction. Since 2000, we have paved 13.5 miles of Circulation plan roads and 7 miles of local roads through the various programs.
- Increased funding for road maintenance. This includes the use of the General Fund for road paving.
- Approved the Trench Cut Ordinance. Studies have concluded that utility trenching degrades and shortens the life of the surface of the road. This degradation increases the frequency and cost of maintaining the road surface. The Ordinance requires that trench cuts be constructed to City Standards and inspected.
- Approved provisions for non-licensed persons to work in the Colony right-of-way. This will help citizens maintain non-city maintained roads.
- Approved Ordinance for road improvement requirements for the construction and maintenance of roads for new developments to mitigate the impact on the circulation system.
- Purchase of a paving machine and equipment to allow City Maintenance Staff to pave local roads.
- Creation of a Cold Mix Program. This Program makes asphalt-patching cold mix material available to residents to fill potholes on non-city maintained roads. The cold mix is available at Fire Station #1 off Traffic Way. The public can access and load the material into their vehicles off of the Traffic Way driveway ramp.
- Creation of the Road Loan Program. This is a City backed Program that allows low interest loans to neighborhoods that want to maintain and pave their non-City maintained road.

Public Works Operations

We have made many changes in Public Works Operations to focus the use of time, staff and funding on improving the condition of our roads. We have:

- Included all Public Works Operations staff in the annual local road repair program.
- Begun a program to inspect and clean all culverts on an annual basis. This will help keep water off our roads.
- Worked with residences to trim and remove vegetation from the traveled way.
- Begun more aggressive campaign to repair pot holes and failed trenches.
- Created a program to identify and repair road problems as they are found.

Circulation Plan Road Maintenance

Circulation Plan Roads are roads that have higher volumes of traffic and affect a larger percentage of the community. They are also roads that are eligible for State and Federal funding. These are roads on which the City spends a majority of its funding and efforts. Staff monitors the condition of the roads and the traffic volumes to create a Pavement Management System. This information is used to select roads for rehabilitation. For a complete list of Circulation Plan Roads, including unfunded projects, please see Attachment B.

Council has budgeted \$1,300,000.00 in the 2005/2007 Budget for the paving of Circulation Plan Roads. In addition, in May of this year, SLOCOG asked that we program the \$393,000 in USHA monies to a specific road project. These unbudgeted 04/05 and 05/06 USHA monies may be spent by the City on any local road project. In order to comply with SLOCOG's request to quickly spend these monies, staff recommends that we use these USHA monies on the Curbaril Avenue Overlay project. This would then free up an equal amount of Local Transportation Funds from the 2006-2007 Road Rehabilitation Program which would allow us to add another section of road to that project. This brings the total funding for the Atascadero Road Projects for the 2005/2007 Budget to \$1,693,000.00.

Listed below are roads that will be paved this summer:

- ✓ Curbaril Ave – SR 41 to US 101
- ✓ Atascadero Ave – various locations- (a portion of Atascadero Avenue from San Diego to Santa Barbara Road was paved this spring. The section of Santa Barbara Road from Hwy 101 to Atascadero Avenue will be paved this summer)

Listed below are roads that are planned to be paved next summer:

- ✓ San Jacinto Road – El Camino Real to Nogales Ave
- ✓ Del Rio Road – Obispo Road to Chico Road
- ✓ Traffic Way- Olmeda Avenue to Bajada Avenue

Staff will continue to update and use the Pavement Management System to select future projects.

Local Road Maintenance

Public Works Operations Division will be continuing to perform “maintenance work” paving City Maintained Local Roads in the spring and fall. These are roads where Federal and State funding is not available. The purchase of asphalt and other materials will be funded from the Public Works Operations Operating Supplies. Contract services such as street sweeping, water truck rental, tack coat application and other service to assist the operation will be funded out of Public Works Operations Contract Services.

The criteria that is used in selecting City Maintained Local Roads for paving is as follows:

- Poor condition of road surface. (Pot holes, base failure, alligator cracking)
- City Maintained Local Road per the Circulation Element.
- Traffic Control. Public Works Maintenance has a small staff. Proper traffic control can require considerable manpower. We will look for roads that can easily be closed to through traffic or traffic control is not too difficult.
- Population served by the road. We will select Local Roads that serve the most residences.

In Spring of 2006, the Public Works Operations Staff repaired the following roads:

- ✓ Devon Court – Santa Ynez to End
- ✓ San Gabriel Road – Atascadero Ave to West Front

Public Works Operations Staff will be repairing the following road in the Fall of 2006:

- ✓ San Rafael Road – West Front Street to Atascadero Ave

Following is a list of potential roads to pave in the upcoming two years. Roads with ~~strike through~~ were paved in previous years. For a complete list of Local Road Paving Projects, including almost \$11.5 million in Unfunded Road Paving Projects, please see Attachment C.

LOCAL ROAD PAVING PROJECTS		
Road	From	To
San Rafael Rd.	West Front Street	Atascadero Ave
Dolores	San Jacinto	San Anselmo
Alamo Ave.	Barrenda Ave.	Rosario Ave.
Cortez Ave.	Curbaril Ave.	End
Mountain View Dr.	Portola Road	Santa Rosa Rd.
Violeta Ave.	Santa Lucia Rd.	Aguila Ave.
Arona Ave.	San Anselmo	Yerba
Devon Court	Santa Ynez	End
San Gabriel	Atascadero Ave	West Front
Yerba Ave.	Dolores Ave.	Estrada Ave.
Nacimiento	Atascadero Ave	End
Via Ave	Traffic Way	Bridge
El Dorado	La Lina	Arcade
Castano Ave.	Curbaril Ave.	Palomar Ave.
Estrada Ave.	San Anselmo Ave.	San Jacinto Ave.
Dolores Ave.	Traffic Way	San Jacinto Ave.
San Vicente Ave.	San Jacinto Ave.	End
Sorra Ave.	Atascadero Ave	San Andres Ave.
Yasol Ave.	Curbaril Ave.	Castano Ave.
Sycamore Road	Soledad Ave	Hidalgo Ave
Hidalgo Ave	Sycamore Road	Miramonn Ave

Increasing Local Road Maintenance

Council asked Staff to look for ways to increase the amount of Local Road paving our staff could complete in-house. Staff has evaluated this concept.

Based on staffing levels, work load and department budgets it is not possible to increase Local Road paving without drastically reducing our level of service in the parks, streets and facilities. To increase the Local Road paving, without reducing the level of service elsewhere the following funding would be needed:

2 new maintenance workers	\$135,000.00
Public Works Operations Operating Supplies	\$60,000.00
Public Works Operations Contract Services	<u>\$20,000.00</u>
Total	\$215,000.00

Local Road Maintenance - Proposition 42 Funds

Proposition 42 is a State Program to reduce congestion and improve roads. A portion of the funds goes to local agencies for road maintenance and repair. This funding is difficult to program and predict since it is tied to the State Budget and politics. Currently the City has \$241,790.00 programmed in the 2005/2007 budget. Paving projects using the 2005-2006 Proposition 42 allocation was recently completed on the following roads:

- ✓ Old Morro Road – a 2,000 linear feet section starting near Hwy 41
- ✓ San Gregorio Road – a 500 foot section that had significant failure

Atascadero Road Maintenance Assessment District Projects

Road Maintenance Assessment Districts have been established for all or portions of the eight following streets:

<u>Assessment District</u>	<u>Approx. Linear Feet of Road</u>	<u># of Assessed Parcels</u>
✓ Falda Road	1,100 lf	12
✓ Pinal/ Escarpa Avenue	1,300 lf	7
✓ Sonora/ Pinal Avenue	1,250 lf	19
✓ Maleza Avenue	570 lf	9
✓ San Fernando Avenue	3,125 lf	30
✓ Aguila Road	540 lf	5
✓ Cayucos Avenue	620 lf	11
✓ Lobos Lane	840 lf	14

An Annual Assessment of \$20.00 per parcel is collected from each property-owner in these Road Maintenance Assessment Districts. Minor repairs can be completed with the collect funds, however the accumulation of funds is generally not sufficient for major road rehabilitation projects. Sufficient funds have been collected in the Falda Road Assessment District to pay for a simple overlay to be completed this fall.

Atascadero Streetscape Projects

City Staff is working on the conceptual design of Streetscape Project, Phase II. The Council budgeted \$1,000,000.00 of Redevelopment Bond Project Funds. Recently, the City Council authorized the reallocation of \$500,000.00 of Federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) Funds from this project to the Highway 101/41 Interchange project. This will be a continuation of the Phase I Project on El Camino Real and Traffic Way and the Sunken Gardens Project. We will be using the same concepts and Streetscape furnishings on El Camino Real and Traffic Way to enhance Downtown Atascadero, make it more pedestrian friendly and calm traffic. The asphalt road surface will be

repaved in areas where the streetscape improvements are installed. Staff will be bringing concepts to the City Council for input and approval.

Interchange Operational Improvements

The City is initiating a study of the interchanges in Atascadero to identify operational improvements to improve circulation and safety. We will be studying Santa Barbara, Santa Rosa, Curbaril, Traffic Way, San Anselmo and Del Rio interchanges. We will be identifying cost effective improvements such as; striping, road closures, ramp relocations, medians, signage and round-a-bouts that will not require the interchange deck to be rebuilt. Staff has received proposal and will be bringing the award of the contract on March 28th to the City Council.

Road Rehabilitation Loan Program

The City Council created the Road Loan Program to allow neighborhood the ability to pave local roads. A local bank loans the funds for the work to the homeowners. The City guarantees the loan, which provides a low fixed rate for the homeowner. Residences on the following streets have taken advantage of this program and their roads have been repaved:

- ✓ Otero Road
- ✓ Ortega Road
- ✓ Encinal Avenue.

City Staff is briefing the neighborhoods of Piedras Altos Ave and Llano Road about the program. For a complete list of Non-City Maintained Roads, please see Attachment D.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A – Atascadero Road Program Map
- Attachment B – List of Circulation Plan Roads
- Attachment C – City Maintained Local Road Lists
- Attachment D – Non City Maintained Local Road Lists