



April 30, 2025

Dear Community Member,

Since our last E-News update on [February 14](#), several steps have been taken to address short-term, mid-term, and long-term solutions to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety at U.S. 101/Holly Street. Please read on for the latest updates.

PROJECT UPDATES

Short-Term Solutions: Painting & Signage:

In an April 7 meeting with Caltrans, Caltrans confirmed they have started working on updates to signage and installation of high visibility ladder style crosswalks at four locations on the ramps. This work is anticipated to be completed by the end of July 2025.

Mid-term Solutions:

The San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMCTA) has selected WSP/Toole Design Group ("Consultant") to assist the City in developing three mid-term project options (including a protected median concept) with input from City staff, as part of their Technical Assistance Program. In addition to developing three concepts, the Consultant will assist the City with public outreach to select one of the three concepts to pursue. Public outreach will include input from the community and stakeholders, the City's Planning and Transportation Commission, and the City Council. The goal is to complete these steps and submit a formal project funding request for a mid-term solution to the SMCTA's Highway Program by August 29, 2025. If selected, up to 90% of the selected project's funding could be awarded in December 2025. The City is required to fund at least 10% of the total project for this mid-term solution.

Long-Term Solution: Bicycle/Pedestrian Overcrossing:

A separate bicycle and pedestrian overcrossing is still viewed as the optimal safety solution for crossing U.S. 101, because it eliminates potential conflicts with cars.

City staff is working with the Consultant to assess which elements of the 2019 U.S. 101/Holly Street Interchange and Bike/Ped Overcrossing Project plans and specifications remain valid and what updates are needed to meet current Caltrans standards to obtain approval.

In the coming weeks, City staff and the Consultant will attend several meetings with all of Caltrans' functional units to review the Consultant's proposal on the necessary updates and seek input from Caltrans on the scope of the updates needed to obtain its approval.

GRANT APPLICATIONS & FUNDING UPDATES

SMCTA Technical Assistance & Funding for the Bicycle/Pedestrian Overcrossing:

Similar to the proposed mid-term concept project application, the City and the Consultant are working with the SMCTA to submit a formal project funding request for the U.S. 101/Holly Street Interchange and Bike/Ped Overcrossing Project to the SMCTA's Highway Program by August 29, 2025.

Whether the City applies for a planning grant or a design and construction grant will depend upon how much of the existing plans and specifications are still valid. If selected, up to 75% of the selected project's funding would be awarded in December 2025. The remaining 25% will need to be funded by the City and/or other grant funding sources.

It is important to note that in order to be eligible for the SMCTA's Highway Program funding, the bike/pedestrian overcrossing cannot be decoupled from the larger U.S. 101/Holly Street interchange improvement project, due to the voter-approved Measure A and W expenditure plan language.

USDOT's Safe Streets for All ("SS4A") Grant:

In addition to the SMCTA's Highway Program, the Consultant will assist the City in applying for the SS4A grant to help fund the construction phase of the U.S. 101/Holly Street Interchange and Bike/Ped Overcrossing Project. Applications for this highly competitive federal grant are due in June 2025. If awarded in 2026, USDOT could contribute up to \$25 million toward the construction of the project. To meet the grant's requirement for a 20% match in non-federal funds, the City must contribute \$5 million.

2025 Community Project Funding (Earmark) Request:

Representative Kevin Mullin plans to resubmit the [Fiscal Year 2025 Community Project Funding](#) request for the U.S. 101/Holly Street Interchange & Overcrossing project in San Carlos to the Appropriations Committee for Fiscal Year 2026. The request is for \$2.9 million, which, if awarded, would fund the construction of the project. It may take several months before the City learns whether the funding will be granted.

SMCTA Technical Assistance

As mentioned above, the SMCTA, through its Technical Assistance Program has committed \$298,279.60 to engage the Consultant, WSP/Toole Design Group, to assist the City with conceptual designs for three mid-term solutions, public engagement around a mid-term solution, and grant funding application assistance for both the SMCTA's Highway Program and the USDOT's SS4A grant.

City of San Carlos Funding

On April 29, the City Council held a Study Session to review the recommended Capital Improvement Program for fiscal years ("FY") 2025 through 2030. As part of the Program, staff requested \$5 million in FY 2025-26 and \$5 million in FY 2026-27 as matching City funds for the grant applications referenced above. The City Council will consider adopting a resolution to adopt the capital budget at its June 9 regular meeting.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this update. We anticipate providing another update soon on (1) the status of the short-term solutions and (2) seeking community feedback on the preferred mid-term concept. If you'd like to share comments on this letter, please email citymanager@cityofsancarlos.org.

Very Sincerely,

The City of San Carlos U.S. 101/Holly Street Interchange Project Team