



Legislation Details (With Text)

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**CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT
MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 7, 2016**

PREPARED BY: Edith Ramirez, Economic Development Director/Community Development
APPROVED BY: City Manager

HIGH SPEED RAIL UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Accept the High Speed Rail Verbal Update.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES, GOALS & STRATEGIES:

Ongoing Priorities

- Protecting the environment
- Preserving and cultivating public trust

2016 Focus Areas

- Planning Our Community
- Developing Our Community
- Improving Our Communication

Participate in Regional Issues **REPORT NARRATIVE:**

On June 1, 2016, the City Council received a presentation by the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) regarding the status of their project. At that meeting, the City Council approved a reimbursement agreement with the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA), the State Agency responsible for the planning, design and construction of the California high speed rail system that will connect the San Francisco Bay Area to Los Angeles (eventually from Sacramento to San Diego) with

a train system that will operate at speeds over 200 miles per hour. The City Council also approved two additional consultant contracts with Apex Strategies and David J. Powers and Associates to support the City in the review of the High Speed Rail project.

Many meetings have taken place over the last couple of months, including internal and regional technical meetings, and a regional Working Group meeting comprised of representatives from the communities of Morgan Hill, San Martin, and Gilroy. At this Working Group meeting, a revised Highway 101 alignment was unveiled.

High Speed Rail staff and the City of Morgan Hill are assembling additional information needed to better understand the project, its impacts, and to visually articulate the various project alignment alternatives which are:

1. At grade, east of the UPRR tracks on Monterey Road
2. Elevated in a viaduct east of the UPRR tracks on Monterey Road
3. Elevated in a viaduct alongside Highway 101

It is clear that the project is quickly evolving and it is the desire of staff to bring current information to the City Council and to schedule a community workshop as soon as feasible.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Inform

California High Speed Rail Authority held a regional Working Group meeting with community representatives from Morgan Hill, San Martin, and Gilroy on August 17, 2016.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS:

Not applicable.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL AND COMMISSION ACTIONS:

On June 1, 2016, the City Council received a presentation by California High Speed Rail Authority regarding the status of their project. At that meeting, the City Council approved a reimbursement agreement with the California High Speed Rail Authority and approved consultant agreements with Apex Strategies and David J. Powers and Associates. The Council also adopted a resolution reaffirming the City of Morgan Hill's position that Highway 101 is the preferred alignment for High Speed Rail (HSR) through Morgan Hill. A similar resolution was approved in 2009 and 2010.

FISCAL AND RESOURCE IMPACT:

No fiscal impact is associated with this item.

CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act):

Not a Project

By the definition provided in the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378 this High Speed Rail update does not qualify as a "project" and is therefore exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act requirements.

LINKS/ATTACHMENTS:

No Attachments