

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
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April 9, 2024

Maite Iturri
Chair
Springs Municipal Advisory Council (SMAC)

Dear Ms. Iturri:

This letter is in response to the March 13, 2024 request letter addressed to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. Thank you for voicing your concerns of safety on our Highway, State Route (SR) 12 in Sonoma County.

It is our number one priority to enhance safety for all modes of transportation throughout our highway system.

This letter will address the three areas of concern in your request letter.

1. The need to install In-Roadway Warning Lights for illuminated crosswalks at:

- Waterman Avenue
- Central Avenue
- Sierra Drive
- Main Street & West Verano Avenue

A SHOPP Safety Improvement Project (04-3Y710) was amended at the October 2023 CTC meeting with augmented funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The project proposes to include the installation of RRFB (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon) with pedestrian safety enhancement signage and pavement markings at the Waterman Ave, Central Ave, and Sierra Dr. intersections. Project did not include improvements at Main St and West Verano Ave intersection as intersection is outside of the State R/W.

The 04-3Y710 SHOPP Project Initiation Document (PID) was completed within an expedited 3-month period. Currently, the project is in environmental phase and is expected to complete by December 2024. The project is expected to start construction by Summer 2026. We understand your concern with the timeline, but we are constrained to following the CTC programming timeline, the Design-Bid-Build process, and Environmental CEQA/NEPA evaluation. These elements constrain projects to take a few years to complete regardless of which agency

is the lead. This project would not have been initiated as quick as it has without the support of the available IJJA funds allocated to District 4.

While the RRFBs are included in the project, the In-Roadway Warning Light is not a feasible option for Caltrans D4 due to the maintenance challenges of maintaining and repairing in-roadway lighting.

2. Request of crosswalks be added for public safety at the following intersections:

- Hawthorne Avenue
- Encinas Lane
- Sunnyside Avenue
- Fetters Avenue
- Lichtenberg Avenue

Caltrans has added these crosswalk locations for pedestrian safety enhancement into our Highway Maintenance Program (HM-4, Safety) for fiscal year 2024/2025 to install enhanced high-visibility crosswalks with adequate pavement marking and signage. This project is expected in environmental phase in Spring 2025, with its completion date by the end of 2026.

3. Donald Gap/Agua Caliente Bridge pedestrian safety and accessibility:

While the safety improvement project (04-3Y710) will provide a continuous sidewalk and curb from south of Harley Street (at Vineyard Market) to just south of Agua Caliente Bridge on both EB/WB SR-12, Sonoma County has installed in December 2023, Type Q object markers (Delineators) separating the travel way and the shoulder on the bridge section through an encroachment permit.

Caltrans is continuing collaboration efforts with Sonoma County to sponsor a complete street improvement project for sidewalk, pedestrian and bike bridge crossing, and crosswalks between Encinas Lane and Donald Street on SR-12. The Project Study Report-Project Development Support (PSR-PDS) is expected to begin in Spring 2024 and will be coordinated closely with the Verano Intersection Safety Improvement project (EA 04-3Y710).

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Caltrans values our partnership with Sonoma County to address local needs and priorities and advance Caltrans mission to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment.

Thank you for your inquiry in traffic safety and mobility on SR-12 corridor in Springs area. If you would like to discuss further, please feel free to contact me at (510) 714-7889 or via email at aung.maung@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



AUNG MAUNG
District 4 Chief Safety Officer

c: Dina El-Tawansy, District Director
c: David Ambuehl, Chief Deputy District Director
c: Sean Nozzari, Deputy District Director, Operations