



Meadow Way Bridge Condition Assessment

MEADOW WAY BRIDGE



Meadow Way Bridge, over San Anselmo Creek, was constructed in the 1950's. The 70-foot long structure supports one narrow 10-foot wide traffic lane nearly 25 feet above the creek bed. The bridge spans an average to relatively wide section of San Anselmo Creek at a very sharp left channel bend, and serves as the only egress and ingress point to nearly two dozen residences across the creek from Cascade Drive.



CURRENT CONDITIONS

The bridge deck at Meadow Way was not overtopped during the December 2005 flood, believed to be a 100-year event; high-water marks collected in the vicinity of the bridge were only between 6.5 and 8 feet above the channel bed. However, the significant flows through this part of the creek have undercut both sides of the embankments in the vicinity of the bridge. This site's unique geometry, combined with the channel bed soil type and flows, has created serious erosion and bridge foundation problems.

This bridge has a low Sufficiency Rating of 44.1 (out of 100) and has been evaluated by Caltrans and found to be "functionally obsolete" on the account of its insufficient lane, sidewalk and overall widths. The bridge's foundation vulnerability and obsolescence make it necessary for the Town to evaluate its full condition. Combined with the fact that the Toll Credit Program, which pays the Town's share of the costs, will be ending at some point, there are good reasons to move forward with the Bridge's full condition assessment at this time.

THE PROJECT

The purpose of the project is to address the needs of the Meadow Way Bridge so that it is safe and up to code. Context Sensitive Solutions is a holistic approach to planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of transportation elements. These solutions use innovative and inclusive approaches that integrate and balance

community, aesthetic, historic, and environmental values with transportation safety, maintenance, and performance goals. The site of this bridge in a secluded neighborhood in Fairfax makes it a great candidate for a context sensitive solution.

Local concerns will be balanced with federal and state rules underwriting the program, safety issues, and the Town's future maintenance costs. Given the technical advances made in the last 50-60 years since the bridge was built, the Town has an opportunity to explore a wide range of possibilities to make this bridge safe. At its October 2013 meeting, the town council narrowed the design options to the following: 1) repair the existing wooden bridge, 2) replace the bridge with a one-lane wooden bridge, and 3) replace the Bridge with a one lane concrete/steel bridge. During all phases of the project, measures will be taken to minimize impacts to residents living near the bridge and to the ecology of the creek.

Construction activities and duration within the creek must comply with a variety of restrictions and agency requirements. The Regional Water Quality Control Board, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Fish and Game all have interests and regulations that impact project alternatives. The project must be sensitive to fish, wildlife and plant impacts, noise ordinances, and recreational uses of the Creek. Because it is federally funded, the project must clear both federal and state environmental requirements (NEPA and CEQA).



COSTS AND FUNDING

The Meadow Way Bridge is on the National Bridge Inventory (NBI), is inspected by Caltrans biennially, and is eligible for Highway Bridge Program (HBP) funding. Thus, it is eligible for federal funds for its assessment and construction of the improvements. Federal funds would cover 88.53% of the project's engineering, environmental assessment and construction costs; this funding is supplemented by Toll Credit Program, another federal program, which will pay the Town's 11.47% share during construction. This provides a great opportunity for Fairfax to make significant infrastructure improvements with relatively small financial outlays.

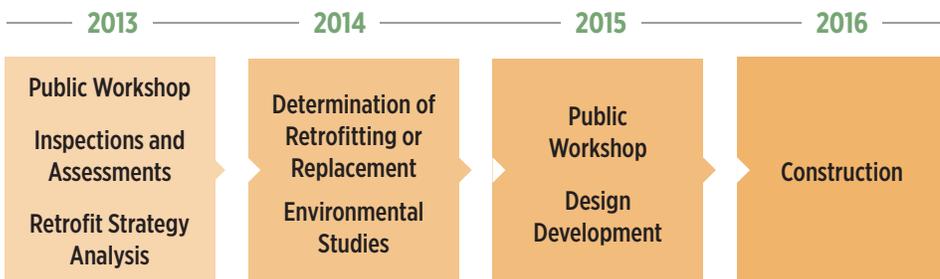
PROJECT SCHEDULE

Input will be gathered from nearby residents and other stakeholders, such as environmental groups, in late 2013 and early 2014. Environmental studies will take most of 2014 and some time in 2015, with designs developed during 2015, and construction beginning in spring of 2016.

The Town of Fairfax and the project team are committed to an open public outreach process for this bridge project. We will be meeting with several groups to gather input, including neighborhood groups, Friends of Corte Madera Creek, and other interested parties.

A public workshop on the Meadow Way Bridge project is scheduled for November 20, 2013. The purpose will be to share all the background information on the project, answer questions, discuss assessment reports needed, and to present various options for providing a better bridge to the community, as well as to receive input from interested people. Please plan to attend and let us know your thoughts and concerns.

PROJECT TIMELINE



FOR MORE INFORMATION

A Public Workshop will be held on Wednesday, November 20th, 6:30 PM at the Fairfax Women's Club, 46 Park Road.

To stay connected to the Meadow Way Bridge project, and to ask questions or make comments:

- Visit the website: <http://fairfaxbridges.com>
- Email: info@fairfaxbridges.com
- Call the project contacts: Valerie Taylor or Daniele Petrone with Nelson\Nygaard, at 415-284-1544

