

Creek Road Bridge Update September 2016

Caltrans approved the Town's Retrofit Strategy Report in May 2014. Caltrans did not find the bridge eligible for replacement and approved Seismic Retrofit Strategy Alternative 2. This approach includes infill walls between the columns, tying the bridge deck and its supports together using high strength cables and placing seismic stopper slabs in the approach roadways at each bridge end. No increased bridge width or traffic capacity will be resulting from this seismic retrofit project.

Subsequent to approval of the above report, the Town applied to Caltrans for additional funds through the Bridge Preventive Maintenance Program (BPMP). This is a separate federal program from Bridge Seismic Safety, used to make preventive repairs to the bridge before they become larger problems. For Creek Road Bridge, this program will address the condition of the concrete and allow fixing of the cracks and spalls throughout the bridge and its deck, as well as replacement of the bridge expansion joint seals. Caltrans approved the Town's application in September 2015, funded this program and allowed the design and environmental process for it to proceed concurrently with that of seismic retrofit. The construction of all seismic retrofit and preventive repairs will also be concurrent.

The field surveys, as well as research of Preliminary Titles for right-of-way and private property lines in the bridge vicinity, have been completed. Construction easements with 2-3 property owners will be necessary and the Town will be contacting the affected parties separately to discuss this matter.

The bridge is currently in preliminary design and environmental phase for both seismic retrofit and BPMP. The Natural Environment Study (NES), a comprehensive biological resources study, required as part of NEPA and CEQA regulations, was approved for the bridge earlier in 2016. Various other environmental and cultural resources studies are currently moving forward. Following the conclusion of the studies, the draft environmental documents for the bridge would be completed early in 2017 and made available for a month-long public review and comment. Upon addressing the comments and finalizing the reports for adoption by Caltrans (NEPA) and the Town of Fairfax (CEQA), the final design and environmental permit processes for seismic retrofit of the bridge and its preventive repairs will begin.

The Town will have another public presentation for the project sometime in 2017, before the design is 100% complete. In this workshop, the Town's consultant will explain the construction procedures and its ramifications for the immediate bridge vicinity. We anticipate having the project ready for bid before the end of 2017 and having a contractor on board for the construction to begin in spring of 2018. This will be a one-season project, expected to last nine to ten months. The bridge would be closed to traffic during construction and the motorized traffic will be directed to use other streets in the neighborhood to access the main arterials and other destinations.