

From: [Nader Tamannaie](#)
To: [Loren Umbertis](#)
Cc: [Meghan Weir](#)
Subject: Meadow Way Bridge Update

Dear Meadow Way Residents,

This email is intended to serve as an update on the bridge project for those of you who have been waiting for one patiently. If you no longer live on Meadow Way but are still receiving this update, please forgive us and send me a reply as such, as I am looking at an email list from 2020. If you have a neighbor who has moved in recently and may have not received this, please forward this email to them and have them send me their email address to add to my list.

We have been working with the State since early 2022 to respond to us positively on the project's need for additional financial support, but have confirmed things work very slowly when it comes for money at Caltrans. We are compelled to send you this update, even though it is not overflowing with positive news.

To jog your memory, back in early 2022 or so the project management team was confronted with the news that the stretch of Meadow Way between Cascade Drive and its T-intersection down the road, a 400-foot ± stretch, was not Fairfax right-of-way (ROW), even though the Town has been maintaining and operating the street for about a century. About a half of the street belongs to a now-defunct corporation (Cascade Land Co.) and the rest belongs to the Hollister family, with as-yet unknown heirs. The State told us that, in order to build the bridge project, the ROW issue had to be resolved, a matter that is also in the Town's and the residents' overall interest. The ROW issues require an eminent domain process, involving courts and including a Quiet Title undertaking. Attorneys will have to be involved and the added costs are not small. The Town has brought two specialized attorneys on board.

By August of 2022, before approaching the end of the project's budget, the design team submitted a budget amendment application to Caltrans. The goal at that point was to close all of the loops and advertise the project for construction in 2023 with the additional grant. At that point, various Caltrans District 4 offices (Local Assistance, ROW and Utilities departments) asked us all of the pertinent questions about the project and the application. By early 2023, as we began to ask the new boss at the District Local Assistance Office about the status of the request, we found out they had failed to forward the package to their HQ. After our inquiry and the discovery of this failure at Caltrans, the package was sent to the HQ by the District office a year or so beyond the expected date and the request didn't make it to the list for the State's current 23/24 fiscal year. The Town has sent multiple letters to Caltrans requesting an intervention by the HQ and the District has supported that, but the desired action has not taken place yet. The project has been out of budget for nearly a year.

If the requested dollars are theoretically authorized today and given to the Town, we will still have a hard and near impossible time to resolve the ROW issues and the utilities, which are also complex and tied to ROW, by November of this year in order to advertise the project for construction in 2025. At this point the Town cannot speculate on the construction start date, but will continue to maintain the bridge, regroup when the dollars reach the Town's coffers and continue where the design team left off. We will continue to communicate with the State and encourage them to release the needed dollars as soon as possible. Once this happens we will forward another update to you all. This will be posted on the project's web site as well.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nader Tamannaie, PE
Project Manager