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## Work to begin for safer intersection this summer



Photo Vera Kochan

The intersection at Canyon Road and Camino Pablo during rush hour, with bicyclists and cars driving north, south and east.

By Vera Kochan

Improvements to pedestrian crossings at the intersection of Canyon Road and Camino Pablo are coming this sum-

mer. Funds from One Bay Area Grant and funds augmented from Measure K have set the wheels in motion on the project first proposed in 2016. Public outreach meet-

ings will be scheduled for February or early March when construction strategies are presented to the town.

Parents of Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School students have long realized the danger this intersection poses when children going to and from school do so at the same time that drivers are going to and from work.

Some of the proposed safety enhancements are to reduce the through-travel lanes from two to one in each direction and assign the remaining area to "bulb-outs," while adding a pedestrian refuge/island to reduce the crossing distance and narrowing the roadway to calm traffic. Additional improvement possibilities are rapid

flash beacons, improved intersection lighting and a speed feedback sign in the northbound direction.

During the Jan. 23 town council meeting, Public Works Director Edric Kwan requested and received approval for the Moraga Road/Alta Mesa Intersection Improvements Grant. This intersection is the second most dangerous for pedestrians since 2011 with 27 accidents, three of which involved trips to the hospital for pedestrians.

Kwan stated, "Twenty-two other agencies are vying for the OBAG funding. We need to contribute local funds by matching 50 percent of their grant funds to have a more competitive applica-

tion." He assured the council that the town's funding of the Moraga Road/Alta Mesa project "has already been included in the budget and will not detract from another project.

"We will make sure that any improvements are safe," Kwan added, "but within our budget." He anticipates construction to begin in 2020.

When asked by the town council if Kwan has received negative public feedback about the intersection, he confirmed that he has received quite a few phone calls. Moraga Chief of Police Jon King interjected, "I get a lot of complaints about the crosswalk; a lot of near misses."

## Town discusses use of upcoming injection of Palos Colorados funds

By Vera Kochan

The Palos Colorados Funds, also known as Fund 100 – One Time Developer Fees, are on the verge of a cash injection this June. If all stays on track, the town's bank balance will increase to \$2.5 million.

Norman Veloso, Moraga's director of administrative services, delivered a status presentation to the town council on Jan. 9, outlining the fund's history and future expectations.

Veloso noted how the fund is unrestricted. "It is not limited," he said. "It is not constrained as to how the money is going to be used. It's just like any general fund revenue money that the council can then decide how to use that money as it fits the priorities and the needs of the council."

Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg advised the town council to "look at the impacts at that time and what else has happened in the community,

and find out if some of that funding would be appropriately allocated towards some of the impacts and additional recreation or open space."

One idea proposed was to use the funds to build a multi-purpose gymnasium in town. Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns opened up the public comment portion of the council meeting with his appeal. "As the town considers the allocation of the Palos Colorados funds and negotiating future

developments, I strongly encourage serious consideration to develop athletic fields and to partnering with your school district to explore, along with our foundation, service groups and athletic organizations, a multi-use community facility on the Joaquin Moraga campus," he said.

Suzanne Jones, on behalf of Preserve Lamorinda Open Space, said, "We would suggest that while some of the funds may be reasonably ex-

pected on other priorities, a portion should continue to be used toward open space and recreation opportunities as they arise."

Former mayor Dave Trotter spoke in support of Burns' cause by adding, "This is an opportunity for the council to advance these interests, to understand that the quality of the schools are what make this an attractive place to live, along with our open space and keeping our property values high."

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