

CITY MANAGER BIWEEKLY REPORT

October 22, 2015

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
FROM: Deanna J. Santana, City Manager
SUBJECT: **City Manager's Biweekly Report**

RESPONSE TO COUNCIL INQUIRIES

Transportation on Maude Avenue - Staff recently received a concern regarding the current traffic conditions at Maude and Mathilda, specifically regarding concerns with queuing at Maude and Mathilda. The City Council also provided additional questions which are summarized below:

Council Questions

1. *What is our most recent traffic data on Maude?*
2. *Since there is a Maude project, as well as a Peery Park GPA project, will staff have a fairly comprehensive set of tools brought to bear on the issues raised including aspects of: pedestrian crossings, school drop-off, queuing, striping, on-street parking, all such as to help with the Fair Oaks to Mathilda connection?*
3. *Staff once said that the Maude project went only to Borregas. Resolving congestion issues would presumably depend on features along the entire connection from Fair Oaks to Mathilda. Will the Maude project help to resolve issues?*
4. *Is school drop-off related congestion amplifying this and would school drop-off management help?*

Response

Since sometimes conditions can be affected by specific one-time issues or are different at different times of the commute hour, staff field checked Maude to identify the current conditions and issues.

The existing peak hour volumes on Mathilda and Maude are 4269 peak hour vehicles on Mathilda and 1320 peak hour vehicles on Maude. These 2015 traffic volumes are approximately 15 percent higher than the 2013 traffic volumes, and staff believes the level of growth at this intersection aligns with the expected new trips from new development and the continuing improved regional economy.

Staff has completed field verification and traffic modeling, and the findings reflect that there are longer than standard queues on westbound Maude Avenue. The long queues on Maude are attributed to two items:

- The volumes on Mathilda require providing enough signal green time to Mathilda to clear those vehicles as efficiently as possible.

- Maude only has one westbound thru lane.

As part of field reviews staff did not find school traffic as a contributing factor to the queuing on Maude. Staff did determine that increased capacity at the intersection of Mathilda and Maude would help reduce delays and queues. The most viable alternative is to convert Maude between Mathilda and Borregas to two lanes each direction, which will require removal of on-street parking and could prevent future bike lanes.

Staff is currently working on a grant funded project for Maude Avenue (currently in the consultant selection process). The project is focused on analyzing the installation of bike lanes and pedestrian facilities on Maude from Fair Oaks to Sunnyvale Avenue, but staff will extend the scope to Mathilda Avenue. This project is intended to make the Maude Avenue corridor more multimodal by providing better facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, including access to the school. To achieve the goals of making a better pedestrian and bicycle environment will require reducing some vehicular capacity. This could include elements such as removing sweeping free right turns at the Sunnyvale/Maude intersection, removing the middle turn lane, adding bulbouts and enhanced crosswalks, and parking removal. The implementation of the bike lanes and enhanced pedestrian environment aligns with General Plan policies, but does require acceptance of lower vehicular speeds and additional vehicular wait times that could result in queues longer than existing.

Other Council Questions

1. *Where do I go to find our data on peak hour or total daily trips, or other relevant metrics?*

Updated data is provided on request. Staff is developing databases to make this information more easily accessible.

2. *As part of the proposed development project at Morse/Maude, why does the driveway curb cut go to Maude, instead of Morse?*

The project was submitted with a proposed driveway on Maude and staff did not identify any issues or concerns with the proposed location.

3. *Do folks avoid the congestion on Maude by taking Ahwanee, and end up congesting Ahwanee, and then, avoid the congestion on Ahwanee by cutting through Duane to Borregas?*

We have not observed or received concerns on Ahwanee and Borregas.

If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Public Works, Administration Division at (408) 730-7415 or email pubworks@sunnyvale.ca.gov.