2020 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER
DPW 20-01

TITLE Improve Bicycle and Pedestrian Access at Sunnyvale Caltrain Station

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What precipitated this study?

The Sunnyvale Caltrain Station is a major transportation hub for the city providing access to and from the downtown area. Currently the station serves over ten northbound trains during the morning commute (6 to 9 a.m.) and over ten southbound trains during the evening commute (4 to 7 p.m.), as well as five VTA bus transit lines. The station is bicycle-friendly with 74 bicycle lockers and bicycle accommodations on most transit lines.

The station is adjacent to Evelyn Avenue which provides direct access for the area south of the railroad. Access to the station north of the railroad can be made through a pedestrian opening to the station at the intersection of North Frances Street and West Hendy Avenue. In addition, there is an unpaved pedestrian pathway leading to the station from the City-operated parking lot north of the railroad under the Mathilda Avenue overpass.

The City-operated parking lot is accessible by vehicle through the Sunnyvale Business Park driveway on California Avenue west of Mathilda Avenue. At the southeast corner of the parking lot, there are 12 bicycle parking lockers. The unpaved pedestrian pathway connecting to the Caltrain southbound platform is on the south side of the parking lot to serve Caltrain patrons that park in the City lot.

The purpose of the study is to evaluate the existing pedestrian and bicycle access to the Sunnyvale Caltrain Station. The study will make recommendations on improvements to signage, access paths, roadways, traffic control and bicyclist / pedestrian amenities. Finally, the study will include an evaluation of right-of-way restrictions, feasibility of improvements and possible sources of funding.

What are the key elements of the study?

The study will include several elements to produce a full evaluation of multi-modal accessibility of the Caltrain Station. One of the components of the study will be a land survey to determine right-of-way constraints between the City, Union Pacific Railroad, Caltrain, and private land owners that would affect proposed modifications. The land survey will also be used to determine ADA compliance for existing and proposed facilities as well as geometric requirements for all proposed travel modes (i.e. bikeways, sidewalks, curb ramps, mulit-use paths, etc.).

Another element of the study will be a public outreach component to obtain information about station users. Public outreach will include a community workshop, an on-site commuter survey, and an online survey. The data collected from the public outreach

efforts will be supplemented with weekday and weekend peak period bike and vehicle parking counts at the Caltrain lot as well as the City owned public parking lots in the area, driveway counts at the station entrance, and Caltrain rider counts with travel mode split.

Lastly, the study will provide feasible recommendations for Sunnyvale Caltrain access improvements. These recommendations might include adding additional pedestrian and/or bicycle access from the neighbhorhood north of the station which may include increasing or decreasing the number of vehicle or bicycle parking spaces based on the analysis. All recommendations will include conceptual drawings of the proposed modifications with a cost estimate and any identifieable constraints. The study will also include possible funding sources and eligible grants for design and construction of the recommended improvements.