



# Department of Public Works

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## Mountain View Road Bridge Replacement Project

### March 17, 2016 Community Meeting Summary



The County of Marin in cooperation with California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Mark Thomas & Company, Circlepoint, Garcia & Associates, Crawford & Associates, and WRECO

## I. Background

The County of Marin has received funding to replace local bridges that have been identified as structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. Mountain View Road Bridge over San Geronimo Creek is one of the bridges identified for replacement and a project has recently been initiated to conduct environmental studies and to begin design work.

Mountain View Road Bridge is located just south of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in the community of Lagunitas. Mountain View Road is a narrow paved roadway that provides access to residential properties on the south side of San Geronimo Creek.

The existing bridge was built in 1962 and is a three-span, steel railroad car frame structure with timber deck runners and wooden bridge railings. The bridge needs to be replaced for the following reasons:

- ❖ The existing steel railroad cars are rusting and have experienced minor structural section loss
- ❖ Erosion along the north bank has caused the grouted riprap to be undermined
- ❖ The existing narrow bridge deck provides for only one lane of traffic
- ❖ Bridge railings do not meet current safety standards

The project improvements are anticipated to extend from the intersection at Sir Francis Drake Boulevard to conform points on the south side of the creek along Mountain View Road and Corona Avenue. During construction, the Mountain View Road Bridge will be closed due to bridge demolition and reconstruction; and traffic will be detoured to the Lagunitas Road Bridge.

The project is 100% federally funded through the Highway Bridge Program and Toll Credits. The federal funds are being administered through the Caltrans Local Assistance Program.

## II. Public Outreach Activities Report

### A. Meeting Purpose & Objectives

Community outreach and engagement are fundamental to developing the design of the new bridge. In late 2015, a survey was mailed to local residents around the Mountain View Road Bridge and provided online from the project webpage. The purpose of the survey was to gather initial input from the community on various aspects of the project.

To better understand the community's interests and concerns around the project, a community meeting was held on March 17, 2016 at the Lagunitas Elementary School. The community

meeting provided an opportunity for the public to learn about the proposed bridge replacement project, ask questions and provide input.

## **B. Outreach and Noticing**

The team conducted the following outreach and noticing activities to promote the community meeting:

- ❖ Public Meeting Notice sent out to stakeholder list on March 4, 2016, which included over 100 local residents in the broader San Geronimo Creek Neighborhood Community, survey respondents, local stakeholder groups, media and elected officials
- ❖ Email blast invitations to stakeholder list on March 9 and March 16, 2016.
- ❖ Posted to the San Geronimo Valley Neighborhood via Nextdoor.
- ❖ Sent out press release to all of the local media resources.
- ❖ Posted community meeting details on the project page on the County of Marin website at [www.marincounty.org](http://www.marincounty.org).
- ❖ Posted community meeting details on the project website at <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/pw/divisions/engineering/mtn-view-rd-bridge-repl-project>.
- ❖ Posted community meeting details at the Mountain View Road Bridge.

## **C. Community Meeting**

The Mountain View Road Bridge community meeting was held from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. on March 17, 2016 at Lagunitas Elementary School. A total of nine people signed-in at the meeting. Ernest Klock, Principal Civil Engineer, and Liza Crosse, District 4 Board Aide for the Marin County Board of Supervisors provided opening remarks at the beginning of the meeting. A brief overview presentation was then given, followed by a Q & A session, which is summarized below. The second half of the meeting was an open house where community members were able to view additional information about the project and discuss project elements and general questions with the project team. A comment card was provided to allow community members to jot down questions or concerns.

The meeting materials can be viewed on the project webpage (<http://www.marincounty.org/depts/pw/divisions/engineering/mtn-view-rd-bridge-repl-project>) and the questions and comments raised at the meeting are summarized below.

## **III. Summary of Meeting Comments and Questions**

Meeting attendees were invited to provide comments and ask questions at the conclusion of the presentation during the Q & A session and during the open house which followed. The following comments summarize the issues raised at the meeting.

## A. Comment Summary

### Bridge Design

- ❖ Someone commented that a schematic would be helpful.
- ❖ Another person commented that striping of the bridge doesn't fit with the rural character.

### Bridge Width

- ❖ One person inquired if the Fire Department has an issue with the width of the bridge. The person mentioned that it doesn't seem to be a problem, and never heard of accidents with the existing bridge in regards to automobiles, pedestrians, bikes, etc.
- ❖ Someone mentioned that he never experienced a problem with width of the existing bridge in 39 years. He prefers that the bridge stay close to the current width.

### Pedestrian/Bicycle Access

- ❖ Someone said that it's good to have one lane, but a pedestrian/bicycle path is needed for clearance. Also, the turning radius on the Mountain View Road side is very tricky for large vehicles and it would be good to address that.
- ❖ Someone commented that she experienced very little traffic conflict in her 38 years on Mountain View Road. She also would like to combine the bicycle and pedestrian lane to make one lane – not two.

### Safety

- ❖ One person commented that he appreciates the safety issue. However, safety can backfire with a wide road and can lead to speeding. He commented on how the current bridge requires you to slow down prior to driving on bridge.
- ❖ Another person noticed people driving faster on the Lagunitas Bridge.
- ❖ A person said that in the 1982 flood, the Forest Knolls Bridge flooded due to debris pileup and if it was built correctly, there should be no flooding.

### Other

- ❖ A comment was given about replacement of the bridge even though nobody has complained and there have been no accidents.

## B. Q & A Summary

**Q: Will the bridge be raised as part of the project?**

*A: The existing bridge is only able to pass a 10-year storm event below its soffit (bottommost member). The new bridge will be raised to provide more creek capacity. The County is investigating how much the bridge will need to be raised to clear 50-year and 100-year storm events. Note that a 100-year storm event is not a storm that is*

*expected to occur every 100 years. Rather it is a storm event that has a 1% probability of occurring in any given year.*

**Q: If the bridge is raised how will that affect adjacent driveways?**

*A: Driveways affected by the project will be reconstructed. Residential access will be maintained throughout construction. The County will work with individual property owners to develop solutions once project impacts are identified.*

**Q: Has the fire department noted that the existing bridge is too narrow? I have never heard it mentioned that the existing bridge is too narrow and I have no knowledge of there having been accidents, among automobiles, pedestrians or bicyclists, on the bridge.**

*A: Since the meeting the Marin County Fire Department was contacted regarding their needs for the bridge structure, width and approach roadway turning radii. The feedback indicates that HL-93 structural loading design and 30 foot outside turning radius is required. The new bridge will need to be wider than existing in order to meet current design standards, but the width is still being analyzed.*

**Q: Will the new bridge foundations affect access for migrating fish and what is the timing of construction in regards to migrating fish?**

*A: The new bridge will be single-span; there will be no foundations or supports within San Geronimo Creek and the existing bridge supports will be removed. Construction work within the creek will only be allowed during a limited time frame, generally from May to October, in order to mitigate impacts to special status species. Further work restrictions may also be identified and imposed to mitigate for impacts to other special-status species as further environmental studies are completed.*

**Q: How will the project enhance the riparian habitat?**

*A: The existing bridge supports will be removed from within the waterway and the creek banks will be restored to their natural condition.*

**Q: What are the species that were identified during the environmental surveys?**

*A: The environmental surveys have not yet been completed. Further work is scheduled for late spring/early summer. To date a total of 93 wildlife species have been assessed for a potential to occur within the project area. The following 16 special-status species have been determined to have a moderate to high potential to occur within the project area: Tomales roach, Coho salmon, steelhead, California red-legged frog, Cooper's hawk,*

*sharp-shinned hawk, yellow warbler, northern spotted owl, pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, western red bat, hoary bat, long-eared myotis, fringed myotis, long-legged myotis, and Yuma myotis. As further environmental studies are completed this list will be updated and mitigation measures for adverse impacts will be identified.*

**Q: How is the project being funded and what design standards need to be met?**

*A: The project is being funded through the Highway Bridge Program (HBP), a federal program that provides funding to enable local agencies to improve the condition of their bridges through replacement, rehabilitation and preventive maintenance. Mountain View Road Bridge has been identified for replacement, and because it is on a local road, the project is eligible for 100% federal funding.*

*The project will be designed in accordance with Marin County Standards, the Caltrans Highway Design Manual, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets. The bridge will be design in accordance with the AASHTO Load and Resistance Factor Design Bridge Design Specifications with California Amendments and the latest Caltrans Bridge Design Manuals.*

**Q: How many people live on Mountain View Road?**

*A: Since the meeting research indicates there are approximately 110 living units on the properties served by the Mountain View Road Bridge and the Lagunitas Road Bridge further downstream. These two bridges provide the only access across San Geronimo Creek to these properties.*

#### **D. Survey Summary**

Meeting participants were invited to complete a survey. Three surveys were completed and submitted at the community meeting. The survey asked participants to rate their priorities on elements of the bridge and bridge construction as well as general input about the project. Copies of the survey, survey results, and written comments can be found below. *(We will include the surveys with redacted person information to the final PDF)*

#### **IV. Next Steps**

The project team will consider community input as bridge design gets underway. The County will provide a project update to the community later this year, likely fall or early winter.