

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Date: May 22, 2009

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

File: Book Item 2.2c (8)
Action

Ref: Mitigated Negative Declaration – Foster Avenue Roadway Extension Project (Resolution E-09-42)

ISSUE: Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Foster Avenue Roadway Extension Project (project) and approve the project to be considered for future funding?

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Commission accept the MND and approve the project to allow for future consideration of funding.

BACKGROUND: The project will provide a designated commuter and truck arterial route between U.S Route 101 and Alliance Road in central Arcata. The project will provide a more direct east-west connection between the City of Arcata's (City) primary north/south truck routes and will avoid the turning radius barriers that currently exist for trucks on Eastern and Western Avenues. The project will also provide safety improvements for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists; create bicycle and pedestrian access for improved connectivity, and other improvements.

The City was the CEQA lead for the project. On April 16, 2009, the City completed the MND in compliance with CEQA. The MND identified certain impacts that required mitigation to be reduced to a less than significant level. As a result, the City adopted a mitigation reporting and monitoring plan for this project.

Impacts that require mitigation pertain to biological resources, cultural resources, land use and planning, noise, public services, and transportation and traffic. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, surveys by qualified biologists and preconstruction surveys prior to ground disturbing activities to assess impacts, if any, on the northern red legged frogs and avian special species; expanding an adjacent wetland and establishing buffers to mitigate through filling 0.13 acres of wetlands based on delineation by Natural Resource Management; use of a qualified archaeologist if necessary; implementation of noise attenuation measures for residential outdoor activity in accordance with the City policy and implementation of road closure protocols during the construction phase.

Chair and Commissioners

May 22, 2009

Book Item 2.2c (8)

Page 2 of 2

The project is estimated to cost \$2,562,000 and is fully programmed with STIP RIP funds. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2009/10.

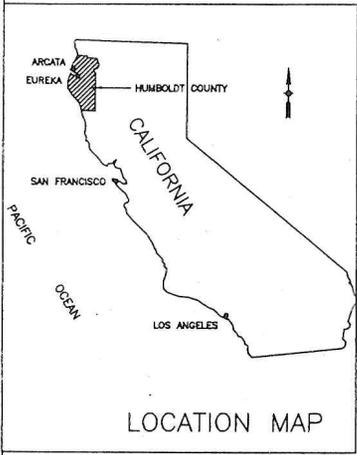
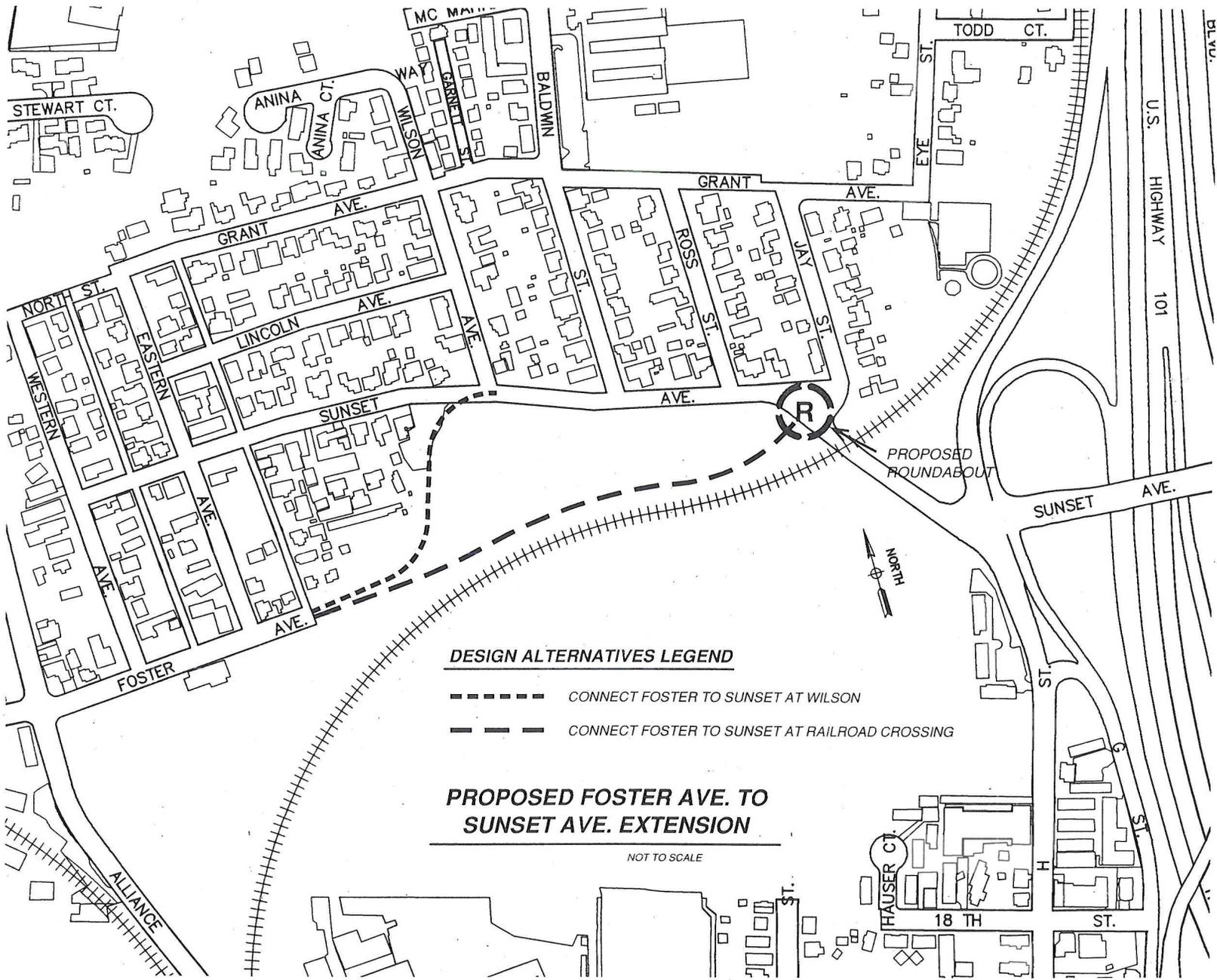
Attachments

- Resolution No. 09-42
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 01-Humboldt Resolution E-09-42

- 1.1** **WHEREAS**, the City of Arcata has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- Foster Avenue Roadway Extension
- 1.2** **WHEREAS**, the City of Arcata has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3** **WHEREAS**, the project would provide a designated commuter and truck arterial route between U. S. Route 101 and Alliance Road in central Arcata; and
- 1.4** **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.5** **WHEREAS**, the City of Arcata has adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the implementation, monitoring, and timing of mitigation measures identified to reduce identified environmental impacts to a less than significant level; and
- 1.6** **WHEREAS**, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2.1** **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.



DESIGN ALTERNATIVES LEGEND

- CONNECT FOSTER TO SUNSET AT WILSON
- CONNECT FOSTER TO SUNSET AT RAILROAD CROSSING

PROPOSED FOSTER AVE. TO SUNSET AVE. EXTENSION

NOT TO SCALE

Enclosure 3. **Vicinity Map**