

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGES TO COMPLETE STREETS FACILITIES (PROJECT DELIVERY)

DISTRICT 11

EA 11-43095

SHOPP ID 20297

COUNTY: SAN DIEGO ROUTE: 8

PROJECT POSTMILES: T0.4/R21.9

PHASE: PA&ED (ENVIRONMENTAL)

APPROVED BY: DONNA BERRY, CHIEF ENGINEER, JULY 10, 2026

Complete Streets Scope Change:

This is a State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Project with traffic management systems (TMS) as the anchor asset that includes complete streets improvements. At project initiation, the area surrounding the Fairmount Avenue undercrossing of I-8 was identified as a Tier 1 (highest priority need) priority for improving pedestrian and bikeway facilities in the District 11 2022 Caltrans Active Transportation Plan. The Project Initiation Report (PIR) identified bicycle and pedestrian intersection improvements at Camino Del Rio North/Alvarado Canyon Road and Fairmount Ave, as well as enhancements to the existing Class I and Class II bikeways along Fairmount Avenue, and a pedestrian hybrid beacon. The intersection improvements included bike boxes, green conflict zone pavement markings, rehabilitated crosswalk markings, protected pedestrian/ bicycle "nodes" (sidewalk mixing zones), and bicycle signal phasing.

Of the facilities proposed in the PIR, some have been removed from the scope of the project due to Caltrans right-of-way constraints, continuing coordination with local plans, and potential safety concerns. The removed scope includes 240 of the proposed 400 linear feet of new class I bike lanes (90 linear feet of which would connect southbound Fairmount Avenue with Camino del Rio South and 150 linear feet of which would connect with the southern termination of the existing class I bike path on the northbound side of Fairmount Avenue), 180 linear feet of sidewalk that would connect the southern termination of the existing class I bike path on northbound Fairmount Avenue with the termination of the existing sidewalk on the northbound side of Fairmount Avenue, and one of the pedestrian/bicycle nodes at Fairmount Avenue and Alvarado Canyon Road. Finally, the proposed pedestrian hybrid beacon system across Fairmount Avenue has been removed from the scope of the project.

Justification:

During project development the Project Development Team (PDT) discovered limitations to implementing some of the proposed pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Most of the removed facilities, including the class I bikeway extensions, proposed sidewalk, and pedestrian/bicycle node, would fall outside Caltrans right-of-way. SHOPP funding cannot be spent on facilities outside of Caltrans right-of-way. The PDT reached out to the City of San Diego to determine whether there was an opportunity to coordinate on closure of the gap in pedestrian and bicycle facilities

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at the southern right-of-way line, and learned the city has no current plans to improve these locations due to utility conflicts and pedestrian usage patterns. Installation of the pedestrian hybrid beacon was also evaluated in more depth and determined to have right-of-way constraints and be poorly suited to the existing roadway operations on Fairmount Avenue. The traveled way on Fairmount Avenue has high speeds in both directions and numerous on and off ramps with a high level of traffic weaving. Additionally, to construct the crossing, portions of the existing median concrete barriers would have to be removed creating blunt end objects that would need to be protected with crash cushions, which would extend beyond Caltrans right-of-way. The combination of right-of-way constraints and more detailed investigation of existing conditions led to the recommendation that the above elements be removed from the project scope. The project has reallocated some of the funds from the removed scope to rehabilitate the existing class I bike path, upgrade drainage systems to correct bikeway flooding, and provide lighting on the bikeway, ensuring the Complete Streets needs are being addressed within the project footprint. Opportunities to collaborate with the City of San Diego on future projects to provide the removed features will continue to be pursued.