



MEETING DATE: 9/20/04

ITEM NO. 9

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2004
TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: DEBRA J. FIGONE, TOWN MANAGER
SUBJECT: PROVIDE DIRECTION ON CONTINUED USAGE, REPAIR, AND/OR REPLACEMENT OF THE ROBERTS ROAD BRIDGE

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide direction on continued usage, repair, and/or replacement of the Roberts Road Bridge.

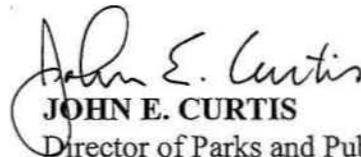
BACKGROUND:

This item was continued from the August 2, 2004 Council meeting and moved from the consent calendar to other business at this Town Council meeting. The report has been updated and photos have been added to the report.

During the 2004-2009 Capital Budget review, the Town Council asked questions regarding the Roberts Road Bridge Capital Improvement Project. This report provides additional information on the current status of the bridges and anticipated next steps.

The State of California annually inspects the bridges in cities and towns that are not within their maintenance sphere and reports its finding to the local jurisdictions. The Town received reports covering the condition of each of its bridges, all of which received good grades for their condition, with one exception: Roberts Road. The report uses a condition scale of 1 (excellent) to 6 (poor) for various bridge components. The Roberts Road bridge received ratings of 3 and 4 which means below average condition. The report found this structure deficient in several categories.

PREPARED BY:


JOHN E. CURTIS
Director of Parks and Public Works

Reviewed by: PS Assistant Town Manager AK Attorney Clerk 5C Finance
 Community Development Revised: 9/15/04 12:41 pm

PAGE 2

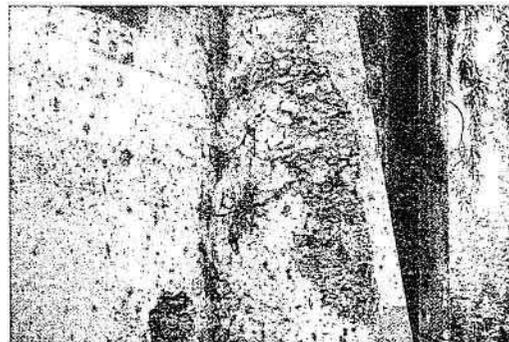
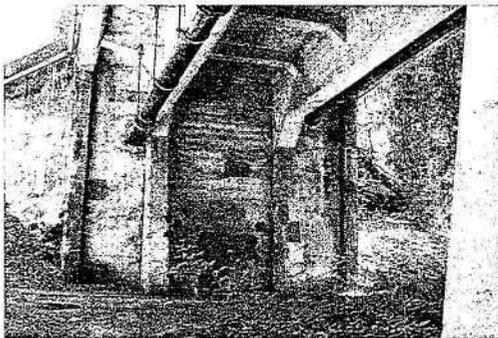
MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

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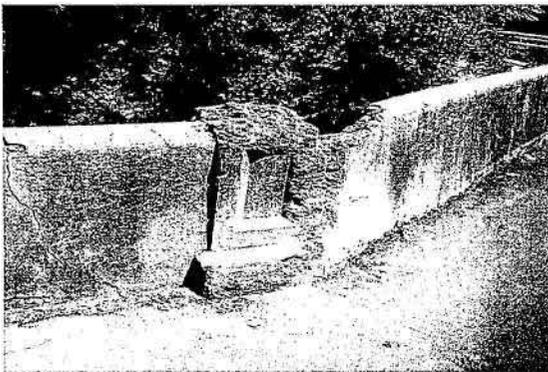
SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

The bridge on Roberts Road across Los Gatos Creek was built in 1918. The design of this bridge was in accordance with the engineering standards and requirements of the early 1900's and is far from today's modern and complex criteria in terms of both structure and seismic design. This bridge was basically a one lane structure used to carry agricultural products across the creek at that time. There has been very little rehabilitation work done on this structure over its 86 years. Additionally, the bridge would not meet current seismic standards.

The Caltrans report identifies cracks and spalls in nearly all concrete elements of the bridge: piers, roadway slabs, and rails. Reinforcing is exposed in several locations.



The weakened concrete sections are a cause to heed the recommendations of this report. From it there are 3 options available:



1. Limit the use of the bridge to pedestrians and bicyclists with no allowance for vehicular usage.
2. Repair/rehabilitate the existing structure and impose a load restriction.
3. Replace the existing structure with a facility that meets current standards and code.

The bridge has been inspected by Town engineering staff which as determined that it is presently stable and capable of handling vehicular traffic, subject to weight limit restrictions. However, staff will continue to monitor the condition of the bridge and will immediately close it to vehicular traffic should there appear any evidence of significant additional deterioration.

PAGE 3

MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

SUBJECT: PROVIDE DIRECTION ON CONTINUED USAGE, REPAIR, AND/OR
REPLACEMENT OF THE ROBERTS ROAD BRIDGE

SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

DISCUSSION:

Staff has looked into options as to what can be done with this bridge, both short term and long term. In the short term, weight limit restrictions should be and have been placed on this bridge. This bridge has a rating of under 20 tons which is less than most garbage and delivery trucks. Limiting the vehicle weight will increase the service life of the structure until closure, rehabilitation, or replacement is done. We have installed 10 ton weight limits signs on Roberts Road approaches to the bridge.

Property owners on Roberts Road and the adjacent streets have been notified properly regarding the implementation of vehicle weight limits, and the garbage company has been contacted.

Option 1 - Closure

Close the bridge to vehicles, with a detour to Blossom Hill Road. The bridge would remain open to pedestrians and bicyclists.

Option 2 - Rehabilitate Structure

In the long term, if the bridge is to remain open, it will need extensive rehabilitation of the deck, rails, and support structure below the deck at an estimated cost of \$1,000,000. This rehabilitation would repair the structural deficiencies of the bridge, but not bring it up to current design criteria, which is a requirement of Caltrans if an agency wants to use grant funding for rehabilitation. It is Caltrans policy not to fund projects where a local agency has not taken appropriate action to address deficiencies identified in a Caltrans Inspection Report for bridges.

Option 3 - Replace Structure

A more effective option in keeping this road open to all users is to replace this bridge with an adequate structure. A new bridge can be designed with architectural features similar to the existing bridge, in addition to having proper width for all users. Grant funding could be used for the replacement project and architectural features on the bridge, as long as such features are similar to the existing bridge. Other reasons for replacing the bridge is for improved sight distance and traffic safety, pedestrian and bicycle safe railings, lower maintenance and repair costs, and a much higher level of seismic protection.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Continue existing bridge load restrictions
2. Determine if bridge will be closed to vehicular traffic
3. Determine if bridge will be open to vehicular traffic

PAGE 4

MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

SUBJECT: PROVIDE DIRECTION ON CONTINUED USAGE, REPAIR, AND/OR
REPLACEMENT OF THE ROBERTS ROAD BRIDGE

SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

If it is determined to keep the bridge open, staff recommends proceeding with applying for grant funding from Federal and State sources. If grant funds prove to be unavailable for replacing the bridge, staff will provide an update to the Council at that time for further actions.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This project is not defined under CEQA. A Notice of Exemption is not required.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of putting weight limit signs on the bridge is under \$200 and has already been implemented. Any replacement costs would need to be funded separately by the Town. The FY 2004/09 Capital Improvement Plan allocates \$100,000 of local GFAR funding and \$900,000 of state grant funding totaling \$1,000,000 for this project. Staff can pursue grant funding from Caltrans for replacement, if that is the direction of the Council.

Attachments:

Letter from Nadine Caperton dated September 8, 2004

RECEIVED

SEP 8 2004

MAYOR & TOWN COUNCIL

Nadine Caperton

*15830 San Benito Way
Monte Sereno, CA 95030-3243*

September 8, 2004

Dear Council Members:

While driving on Roberts Road I saw the sign about the meeting. I hope you are not considering tearing down the last historical thing left in town. That road is a dear remembrance of times past. It is hidden from the general Los Gatos loafers who come to town (at least that is what I hope). I don't want it touched to change a thing.

When that group of homes was built you knew it was an old two lane road yet you let them build anyway. You probably had in mind to enlarge that road when they were issued permits and thought meet that problem later, that was wrong thinking. Now the residents are probably wanting a wider road. Well I say just let them want. That road was used to transport the convoys of troops during WWII. It is a historic road as it is and should not be changed. I know it doesn't mean anything to you except money. To some of us who will not be at the meeting it is more than that it is home!!!! I know you don't respect the memories of those of us who have been here so long and that is to bad but you have torn up so much. Can't it be stopped here and leave something of the past.

I did not live on that road but I had friends who did and we visited. When we walked up the road pushing our baby strollers the men in the convoy would get out and push the strollers up the hill for us. That is a nice memory. The men were lonely for their families and I am sure it made them feel better. Some of our friends fished off that bridge. Leave it alone. True it was an ugly area but there were nice people living there. If people don't like it as it is they can move.

An example of errors made--> 208 Tait Avenue is just a little house built by a pioneer family The Wilder's. Notia Smith the daughter is still living. You let them tear down the homes on each side and it is now sandwiched in so that it gets no sunshine. Besides that they are to close to the street, they are to large for the little lots and it is a mess in general. You should look at places before you give permission to do things and use better judgment. You should not hurt one to please another or to say it another way take money out of one pocket to put in another which is to often the case. It is usually a newcomer that is given the permits to destroy. I do not know who

lives there but the area looks nothing like it did.

We need San Benito Avenue to use for getting around but you closed that. It should be reopened and no streets closed to traffic. Traffic is why we build streets. If to much traffic just put up temporary barriers during the rush time but do not close streets permanently !!!! We would all like private streets. Tell them to sit down and shut up or move.

Our streets and particularly Santa Cruz Avenue needs resurfacing or rebuilt, focus your interests on that. The streets of Los Gatos have not been cared for since the influx of the world was invited here in the 60's and 70's by the money mad realtors. They should have been chased out but they advertised all over the world and sold us out of house and home. They should have been put out of business. Our children would be living in the area today if that had not happened. So every person in the country came here and now we have nothing of the old town. Everyone who comes wants to change something. Let them return to where they came from if they don't like a place. It is home to someone and it is special as it was. They even changed our church service time. That was to much. They probably couldn't have changed things where they came from.

Then the parties the town has given--. That was money that was wrongly spent for partying that ^{was} for keeping streets in repair. A Mayor is not the President of the nation they are just a Mayor yet some have had illusions and spent hours in the beauty shop because they thought they were someone special. It is time you people woke up and do what needs doing and not play around. My dear husband was as concerned as I am about the fate of this town so filled with loafers, bikers, sight seeing, and bars.

Yours truly,

Mrs. (George F.) Caperton

Mrs. Nadine Caperton

M. M. Nadine Caperton