



Staff Report

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING NARROWING FIFTH AND SIXTH AVENUES BETWEEN O'NEILL AVENUE AND HARBOR BOULEVARD TO PROVIDE WIDER SIDEWALKS AND INCREASED LANDSCAPING

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

The Planning Commission requested City Council to establish a Priority Calendar item to narrow Fifth and Sixth Avenues between O'Neill Avenue and Harbor Boulevard to widen the sidewalks and increase the landscaping along the streets.

The Public Works Department has completed its preliminary cost analysis of the requested improvements. In addition, Public Works has collected traffic volume and speed volume data for each of the street segments in the area bounded by O'Neill on the south, Harbor Boulevard on the north, Sixth Avenue on the west and El Camino Real on the east to facilitate any potential traffic calming issues that may arise. Traffic data was not collected on El Camino Real.

The Public Works Department has developed a tool box of traffic calming devices that may be considered for the subject area. The cost for each alternative is provided.

Background

The Planning Commission requested City Council to establish a Priority Calendar item for the narrowing of Fifth and Sixth Avenues between O'Neill Avenue and Harbor Boulevard to provide for wider sidewalks and increased areas for landscaping.

Fifth Avenue between O'Neill Avenue and Harbor Boulevard is 50 feet from curb to curb with a 5-foot sidewalk on either side. There is currently diagonal parking on Fifth Avenue between O'Neill and Broadway. The portion of Fifth Avenue between Broadway and Harbor has parallel parking. There is one travel lane in each direction and the prima facie speed limit is 25 mph. The average weekday traffic volume is 1005 vehicles per day between Harbor and Broadway and 1,810 vehicles per day between Broadway and O'Neill.

Sixth Avenue between O'Neill Avenue and Harbor Boulevard is 40 feet curb to curb with a 5 foot sidewalk on either side. The street has parallel parking along the entire street segment. There is one travel lane in each direction and the prima facie speed limit is 25 mph. The average weekday traffic volume is 1150 vehicles per day between Harbor and Broadway and 1,745 vehicles per day between Broadway and O'Neill.

Discussion

The Best Practices for local residential street design specify a right-of-way width varying between 50 and 60 feet with a curb to curb width varying between 22 feet and 36 feet. There is a recommended separation between the street and the sidewalk of 6 feet with a sidewalk width up to 6 feet. It should be noted that the effective width of a 36 foot curb to curb street with on-street parking is actually 22 feet. On-street parking requires a minimum of 7 feet or a total of 14 feet if there is parking on both sides of the street.

Fifth Avenue

Fifth Avenue has a 60 foot right-of-way and is 50 feet in width from curb to curb. The street could be narrowed to 22 feet curb to curb if there was no on-street parking (Exhibit 1). This would allow for an additional 28 feet (14 feet on each side of the street) that could be used for wider sidewalks and landscaping. The estimated cost for narrowing the street to 22 feet is \$1.2 million.

Fifth Avenue with on-street parking could be narrowed to 36 feet. This would allow for an additional 14 feet (7 feet on each side of the street) that could be used for wider sidewalks and landscaping (Exhibit 2). The estimated cost for narrowing the street to 36 feet is \$610,000.

It should be noted that narrowing Fifth Avenue between O'Neill and Broadway would eliminate the diagonal parking and replace it with parallel parking. There are currently 55 diagonal parking spaces. The conversion to parallel parking will provide for 35 spaces. The net loss in parking spaces will be 20 spaces.

Sixth Avenue

Sixth Avenue has a 50 foot right-of-way and is 40 feet in width from curb to curb. The street could be narrowed to 22 feet curb to curb if there was no on-street parking (Exhibit 1). This would allow for an additional 18 feet (9 feet on each side of the street) that could be used for wider sidewalks and landscaping. The estimated cost for narrowing the street to 22 feet is \$755,000.

Sixth Avenue with on-street parking could be narrowed to 36 feet from curb to curb (Exhibit 2). This would allow for an additional 4 feet (2 feet on each side of the street) that could be used for wider sidewalks and landscaping. The estimated cost for narrowing the street to 36 feet is \$148,000.

Funding

The City of Belmont receives approximately \$425,000 per year of discretionary funding from Measure A that could be used for any narrowing of streets. This is also the only funding source that we have available for our Pavement Management Program for local residential streets and traffic calming. We also use these funds as matching funds for any grants for which the City may apply.

The Public Works Department has investigated possible grant opportunities to facilitate the narrowing of the subject streets. There are no grants available for the narrowing of Fifth and Sixth Avenues based upon the existing traffic data, speed data and collision history.

Traffic Data for the Sunnyslope Area

The Public Works Department has collected traffic volume and speed data on all the streets in the area bounded by O'Neill on the north, Harbor on the south, Sixth Avenue on the west, and Fifth Avenue on the east to determine whether or not any of the streets, including the subject streets, meet the City's requirements for traffic calming. The data is summarized in Exhibit 3.

One of the primary factors in determining whether or not a street needs traffic calming is whether or not six out of seven vehicle drivers (85th percentile) are exceeding 32 mph. The review of the speed data collected indicates there are two street segments where the 85th percentile exceeds 32 mph. These segments are:

- Sixth Avenue between Harbor and Broadway (33.8 mph)
- Fifth Avenue between Harbor and Broadway (32.2 mph)

The appropriate devices to calm these streets would be the installation of speed humps. This is dependent upon whether or not the residents living along these streets support the installation of speed humps and request their installation per the City's requirements.

Future Development in the Area

The implementation of traffic calming techniques may be implemented as part of the development of the Firehouse Square Development. Specific design elements could be included immediately adjacent to the development. Some off-site improvements may be required depending upon the traffic generated by the developments and the potential distribution of the traffic through the Sunnyslope neighborhood.

General Plan/ Vision Statement

The following are from the Belmont Vision Statement on Easy Mobility:

- Bicyclists, walkers, and other non-drivers get where they're going easily and safely
- We require safe residential streets and smooth-flowing thoroughfares.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact as the result of Council discussing and providing direction to Staff.

Recommendation

It is recommended that City Council discuss and provide direction as to whether City staff should pursue the narrowing of Fifth and Sixth Avenues between Harbor Boulevard and O'Neill Avenue.

Alternatives

1. Refer back to staff for further information.

Attachments

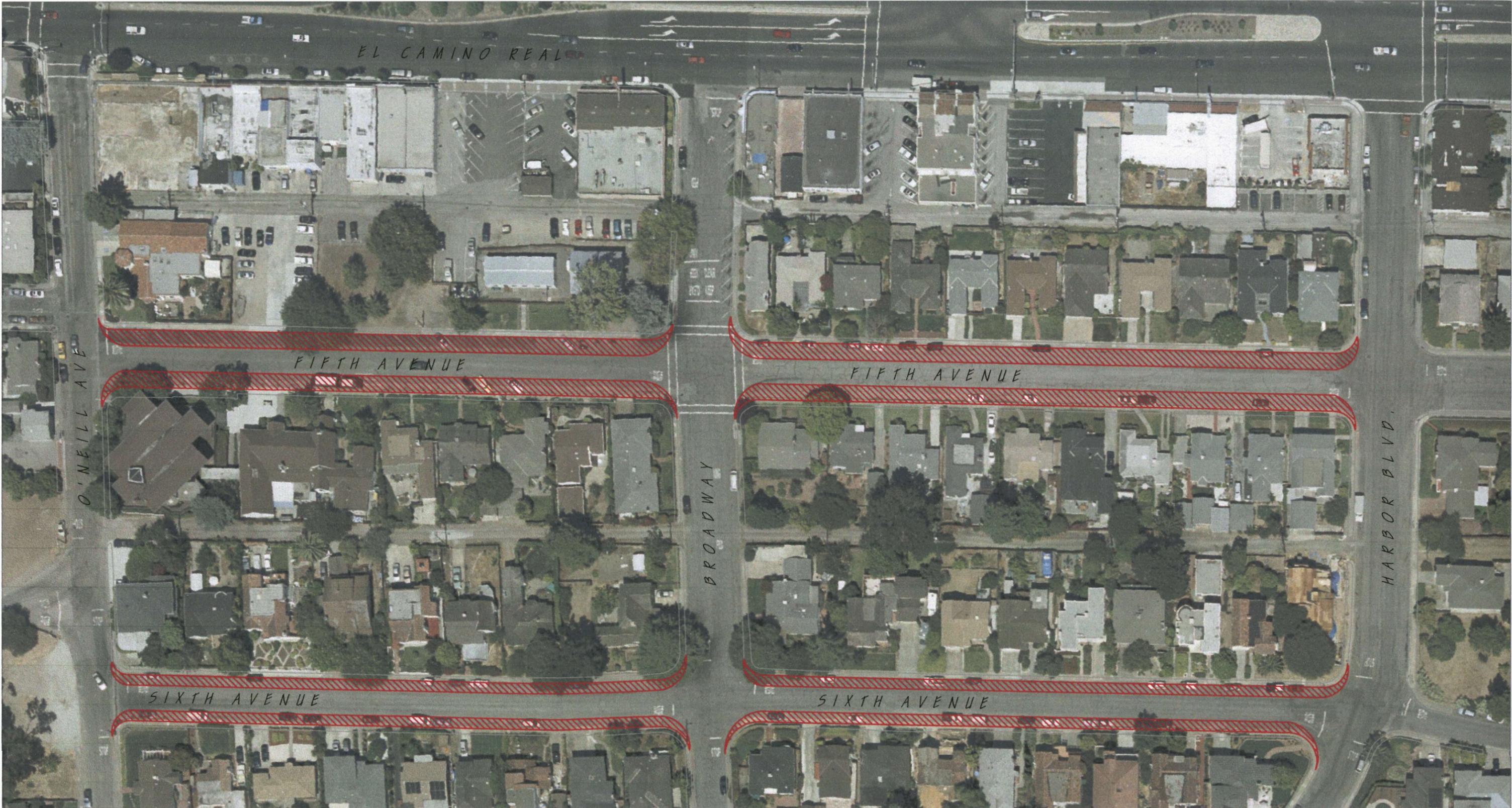
- A. Exhibit 1
- B. Exhibit 2
- C. Exhibit 3

Respectfully submitted,

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SUNNYSLOPE AREA TRAFFIC CALMING

Narrowing Fifth and Sixth Avenues to 22 Feet



1 INCH EQUALS 80 FEET

COST:

Narrowing Fifth Avenue to 22 feet - **\$1,158,599**

- From O'Neill to Broadway - \$563,251
- From Broadway to Harbor - \$595,348

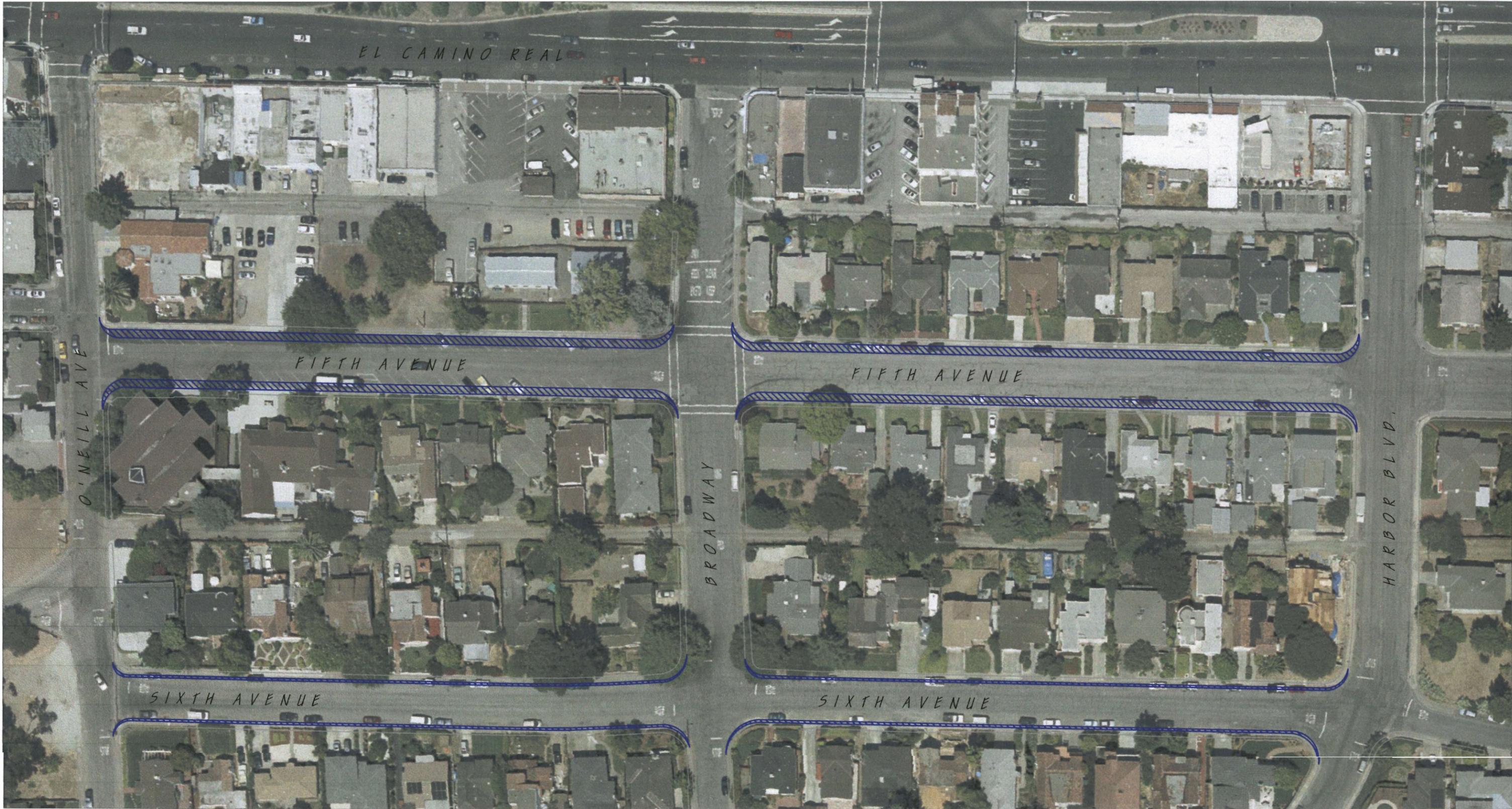
Narrowing Sixth Avenue to 22 feet - **\$751,101**

- From O'Neill to Broadway - \$372,151
- From Broadway to Harbor - \$378,950

EXHIBIT 1



OCTOBER 2008



SUNNYSLOPE AREA TRAFFIC CALMING
Narrowing Fifth and Sixth Avenues to 36 Feet



1 INCH EQUALS 80 FEET

COST:

- Narrowing Fifth Avenue to 36 feet - **\$607,139**
 - From O'Neill to Broadway - \$295,711
 - From Broadway to Harbor - \$311,428
- Narrowing Sixth Avenue to 36 feet - **\$127,933**
 - From O'Neill to Broadway - \$63,583
 - From Broadway to Harbor - \$64,350

EXHIBIT 2



OCTOBER 2008

EXHIBIT 3
SUNNYSLOPE NEIGHBORHOOD SPEED AND VOLUME DATA

Street	Cross Street	Cross Street	Direction	Count Days Number	ADT	AVG Weekday	AVG Weekend	85% Speed	%>25 mph	%>30 mph	%>35 mph
Harbor Blvd	5th Avenue	6th Avenue	Total	6	1,517	1554	1,343	28.9	49.6	9.7	1.0
Harbor Blvd	5th Avenue	6th Avenue	Eastbound	6	784	797	660	29.5	54.2	13.8	1.6
Harbor Blvd	5th Avenue	6th Avenue	Westbound	6	733	757	683	27.7	44.7	5.3	0.3
Harbor Blvd	5th Avenue	El Camino Real	Total	6	2,005	2053	1,569	24.2	10.5	1.3	0.3
Harbor Blvd	5th Avenue	El Camino Real	Eastbound	6	977	980	790	23.7	9.6	0.9	0.2
Harbor Blvd	5th Avenue	El Camino Real	Westbound	6	1,028	1073	779	24.4	11.4	1.7	0.4
Broadway	5th Avenue	6th Avenue	Total	6	829	832	714	25.9	21.9	2.5	0.2
Broadway	5th Avenue	6th Avenue	Eastbound	6	412	412	347	26.2	23.3	2.7	0.3
Broadway	5th Avenue	6th Avenue	Westbound	6	417	420	367	25.7	20.6	2.3	0.1
Broadway	5th Avenue	El Camino Real	Total	6	888	907	694	23.9	9.5	0.6	0.0
Broadway	5th Avenue	El Camino Real	Eastbound	6	475	478	303	23.7	9.7	0.6	0.0
Broadway	5th Avenue	El Camino Real	Westbound	6	413	429	391	23.9	9.2	0.6	0.0
Sixth Avenue	Harbor Blvd.	Broadway	Total	5	1,252	1151	923	33.8	75.9	35.9	11.6
Sixth Avenue	Harbor Blvd.	Broadway	Northbound	5	776	710	552	35.0	84.4	47.2	17.5
Sixth Avenue	Harbor Blvd.	Broadway	Southbound	5	476	441	371	30.3	62.4	18.1	2.3
Sixth Avenue	O'Neill Avenue	Broadway	Total	7	1,770	1,745	1,195	29.8	57.2	13.7	1.6
Sixth Avenue	O'Neill Avenue	Broadway	Northbound	7	1,052	1,040	724	30.0	61.7	15.0	1.5
Sixth Avenue	O'Neill Avenue	Broadway	Southbound	7	718	705	471	29.3	50.5	11.7	1.7
Fifth Avenue	Harbor Blvd.	Broadway	Total	6	976	1006	765	32.2	71.9	30.3	5.2
Fifth Avenue	Harbor Blvd.	Broadway	Northbound	6	569	593	423	31.8	69.3	27.1	4.4
Fifth Avenue	Harbor Blvd.	Broadway	Southbound	6	407	413	342	32.7	75.5	34.8	6.3
Fifth Avenue	O'Neill Avenue	Broadway	Total	6	1,752	1812	1,321	30.0	51.2	15.1	2.6
Fifth Avenue	O'Neill Avenue	Broadway	Northbound	6	1,060	1093	784	30.2	56.0	16.8	2.8
Fifth Avenue	O'Neill Avenue	Broadway	Southbound	6	692	719	537	29.3	43.9	12.4	2.3
O'Neill Avenue	El Camino Real	Fifth Avenue	Total	7	3,819	3,714	2,881	23	5	1	0
O'Neill Avenue	El Camino Real	Fifth Avenue	Eastbound	7	2,846	2,176	2,170	22	5	1	0
O'Neill Avenue	El Camino Real	Fifth Avenue	Westbound	7	973	1,538	711	23	6	0	0
O'Neill Avenue	Fifth Avenue	Sixth Avenue	Total	7	3,566	3,441	2,492	21	2	0	0
O'Neill Avenue	Fifth Avenue	Sixth Avenue	Eastbound	7	1,997	1,943	1,325	22	2	0	0
O'Neill Avenue	Fifth Avenue	Sixth Avenue	Westbound	7	1,569	1,498	1,167	20	1	0	0