

Department of Transportation Response to Arden Arcade Expo

1. Question:

What other news or plans for developments occurring for/ affecting Arden/Arcade Region – Regional Transit Redevelopment, Water District.

Yellow tiles at Howe & Cottage Way are loose – transportation Department says they will fix it.

Answer:

The County is currently in the process of updating the General Plan, which includes a Circulation Element and Transportation Plan that outlines the proposed roadway and transit system for unincorporated Sacramento County. The proposed General Plan update also includes significant policies intended to enhance mobility and safety for pedestrian and bicyclists, and supports the development of complete and sustainable streets to optimally accommodate all modes of travel. The General Plan update is currently going through public hearings before the County Planning Commission. Further information regarding the General Plan update, including a schedule of public hearings, may be found at <http://www.planning.saccounty.net/gpupdate/gpu-index.html>.

The County has also been developing comprehensive plans focused on pedestrian and bicycle transportation. In 2007, the County's Pedestrian Master Plan was adopted which sets forth policies and standards, and identifies improvement projects, to improve mobility and safety and to provide an enhanced experience for pedestrians. Previously, the County adopted the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan for the unincorporated street system, and is now developing and constructing projects to improve accessibility for all users. The County Department of Transportation is currently updating the County's Bikeway Master Plan which will identify future projects to improve safety and mobility for bicyclists. The updated Bikeway Master Plan is scheduled to be approved in 2010. Further information regarding these plans can be found at www.SacDOT.com.

A number of projects are currently planned or underway that will provide transportation improvements in Arden Arcade. For transportation projects currently underway in the Arden Arcade area, please visit www.sacdot.com/projects/ArdenArcade/Default.asp. Some notable projects currently underway include: the Road Rehabilitation Project, which will construct pavement overlays and pedestrian/bicycle improvements on Eastern Avenue, Edison Avenue and Fulton Avenue; ADA sidewalk and intersection improvements in several locations throughout Arden Arcade; and upgraded traffic signals along Howe Avenue, Fulton Avenue, Morse Avenue, Arden Way, Alta Arden Expressway, El Camino Avenue, Marconi Avenue, Auburn Boulevard and Watt Avenue. These projects are all funded by the Federal Economic Stimulus program. Projects to improve pedestrian and bicycle access are underway for Arden Way and El Camino Avenue, and a project to construct enhancements on Auburn Boulevard is in the works.

The yellow tiles in question are detectable warning panels installed to assist the visually impaired to identify sidewalk ramp locations. Earlier versions of these panels were installed using an adhesive and were prone to coming loose over time. Current methods of installing the panels involve imbedding the panel into the concrete eliminating this problem. The Dept. of Transportation is aware of the problem at the Howe and Cottage location and is working with a contractor who is currently working in the area doing similar work. It is hoped that this contractor could do this repair work as a change order to their existing contract.

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2. Question:

Why are there stretches of our major streets (Watt, Fulton, Howe, El Camino, Marconi, etc) that still do not have sidewalks? This is a major safety problem that has been ignored by the County for decades.

Answer:

The County has developed a Pedestrian Master Plan that has identified \$318 million in pedestrian needs within the County including sidewalks along the five streets referenced above. All of these needs are clearly a priority for the County, however, the ability to obtain the funding needed to provide the improvements continues to be a challenge. As funding becomes available the County develops projects along the high priority areas. Besides assorted sidewalk infill projects, we have current major projects in design on Marconi Ave (from Fair Oaks to Walnut), El Camino Ave (from Ethan to Mission) and also Arden Way (from Eastern to Fair Oaks) to provide sidewalks and other upgrades.

3. Question:

Why does my neighborhood, Cottage Park, get black sidewalk repair (asphalt) instead of concrete? It appears that the area south of Fair Oaks Blvd gets concrete repairs. Also, why isn't Fulton Avenue from Arden Way north being fixed? It is a washboard and shock absorber test roadway.

Answer:

Black (or Asphalt) sidewalk repairs are generally done as an immediate or temporary repair to alleviate any tripping hazard within the sidewalk when it is brought to the attention of County. After these repairs are done, the location is added to the database of countywide locations in need of repair. Due to a large number of locations in need for repair and limited available funding, the locations are prioritized for repair. The section of Fulton Ave north of Arden Way has been identified as a candidate location in need of paving, however, it is currently not programmed for construction due to funding limitations

4. Question:

Please advise what plans you have to relieve the congestion at Fair Oaks Blvd & Watt Avenue.

Answer:

The County has been developing a project to help address congestion on northbound Watt Avenue at Fair Oaks Boulevard. The project would extend the right turn lane at this location to increase the capacity to accommodate the high volumes of right-turning traffic at the intersection. The project would also provide the ability for transit buses to bypass traffic back-ups and improve the efficiency and on-time performance of bus service on Watt Avenue. At this time the project is on hold due to the lack of funding. When a funding source is identified, it is expected that design and construction of the project will move forward.

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5. Question:

What can be done about the heavy traffic on Engle Road between Eastern and Norris?

Answer:

The most recent 24 hour traffic count on Engle Road in this vicinity indicates that 3,100 vehicles per day travel on this roadway. This traffic volume is not out of the ordinary for this type of street. Staff will be contacting the resident to further inquire about the concerns regarding the traffic on the section of Engle Road.

6. Question:

We have tried to get speed bumps on Wright Street from Marconi North to Edison. We have a lot of kids walking to the park and then we have the speeders. When do we get some speed bumps put in?

Answer:

Wright Street from Marconi Ave. to Edison is currently on the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) list as residents from the street have already submitted a petition requesting participation in the program. This NTMP list is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Supervisors for funding approval in February of 2010. If this street is approved for funding, staff will schedule neighborhood meetings with residents to discuss the traffic issues in the neighborhood and to develop a traffic plan. Residents also will have an opportunity to vote on the traffic plan before the Board of Supervisors considers the traffic plan for final approval.

7. Question:

When is Fulton Avenue scheduled to be repaved – most concerned about from Fair Oaks toward the north.

Answer:

The section of Fulton Avenue from Fair Oaks Boulevard to Arden Way is a part of the overlay project currently underway. The preparatory work including repair of the damaged roadway base is currently being performed. The final overlay will follow in early spring 2010 due weather limitations for paving. The section of Fulton Ave north of Arden Way has been identified as a candidate location in need of paving, however, it is currently not programmed for construction due to funding limitations.

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8. Question:

**Who determines and on what situations is it determined what streets are resurfaced?
When can we expect Bell Street and Northrop Avenue to be addressed?**

Answer:

Roadway locations are selected for resurfacing based on the condition of the pavement and what type of surface treatment is appropriate. Since there are a large number of roadway locations that are in need of resurfacing with limited funding available, these locations are prioritized for construction to match the available funding.

Both Bell Street and Northrop Avenue have been identified as candidate locations in need of resurfacing; however, they have not been programmed for construction at this time due to funding limitations.