

Welcome to the Newell Road/San Francisquito Creek Bridge Replacement Project

EIR/EA Scoping Meeting - September 3, 2015

Open House	6:30 – 7:00 pm
Project Presentation	7:00 – 7:30 pm
Public Comment Period	7:30 – 8:30 pm

Newell Road/ San Francisquito Creek Bridge Replacement Project

EIR/EA Scoping Meeting

September 3, 2015

Meeting Agenda

- **Welcome and Meeting Purpose**

Ed Shikada, Palo Alto Assistant City Manager

Sean Charpentier, East Palo Alto Assistant City Manager

- **Project Overview**

Brad Eggleston, Palo Alto Assistant Public Works Director

- **Environmental Review Process**

Hillary Gitelman, Palo Alto Planning Director

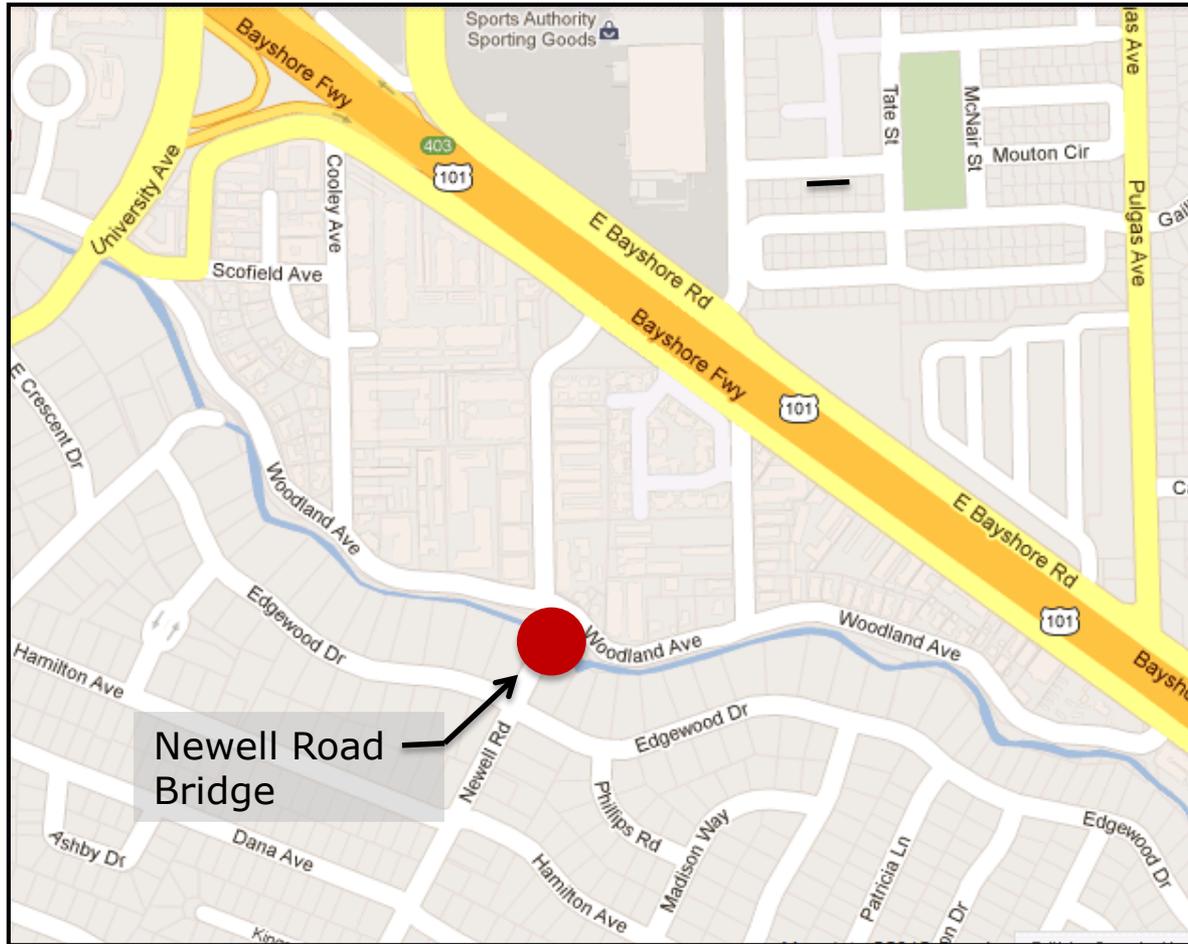
Kamal Fallaha, East Palo Alto Public Works Director

Rich Walter, ICF International

- **Next Steps**

- **EIR/EA Scoping Comments**

Newell Road / San Francisquito Creek Bridge Location



Existing Bridge at Newell Road/San Francisquito Creek



Project History

- San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (JPA) identified Newell Road Bridge replacement as a necessary element of a comprehensive San Francisquito Creek flood protection strategy
- City of Palo Alto secured funding for the bridge replacement (88.5% Caltrans Highway Bridge Program grant, 11.5% Santa Clara Valley Water District)
- City of Palo Alto retained an engineering design consultant (NV5) and an environmental planning consultant (ICF) to assist with project development
- Palo Alto and East Palo Alto staff worked cooperatively to initiate preliminary design and community engagement

Project History

June 27th 2012 Community Meeting

- Initiation of community engagement for the project
- Presentation of preliminary bridge replacement alternatives

January 8th 2013 Community Meeting

- High level of community concerns (traffic, aesthetics, etc.)
- Commitment to full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analysis

October 17th 2013 Community Meeting

- Presentation of eight conceptual project alternatives
- Introduction of screening criteria to identify feasible alternatives to be analyzed in the Project EIR

Project History

February 27th 2014 Community Meeting

- Presentation of traffic impact analysis
- Presentation of Alternatives Screening Analysis findings
- Identification of five project alternatives to carry forward into the EIR/EA

Spring 2014 through Summer 2015

- Negotiation of contract with consultants for preparation of EIR/EA
- Acquisition of EIR/EA funding from Caltrans and the Santa Clara Valley Water District

Project Purpose

- Protect adjacent communities from flood hazards by accommodating the 1% flow rate of San Francisquito Creek at Newell Road.
- Maintain connections for vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian transportation across San Francisquito Creek at Newell Road while avoiding the following:
 - diversion of a significant number of vehicles to adjacent streets;
 - a significant increase in the number of vehicles using Newell Road; and,
 - an increase in average vehicle speed on Newell Road.
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle access across San Francisquito Creek at Newell Road.
- Improve safety for all modes of transportation across San Francisquito Creek at Newell Road.

Bridge Design Alternatives

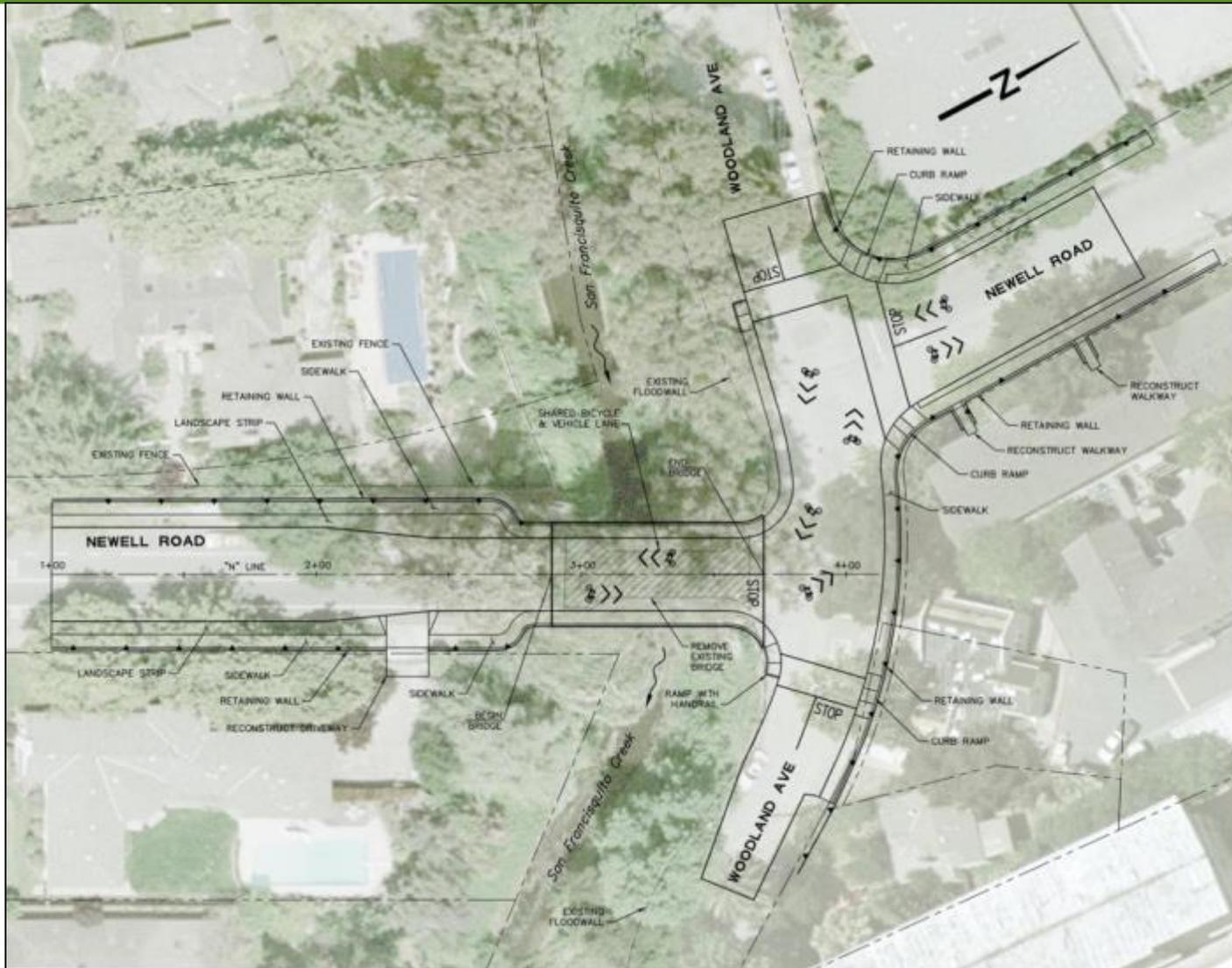
1. Bridge w/bi-directional one-lane traffic w/ signal control

Two-Lane Vehicle Bridge Options w/Bike-Ped Access:

2. Along Existing Alignment
3. With Partial Realignment of Newell Road
4. With Full Realignment of Newell Road

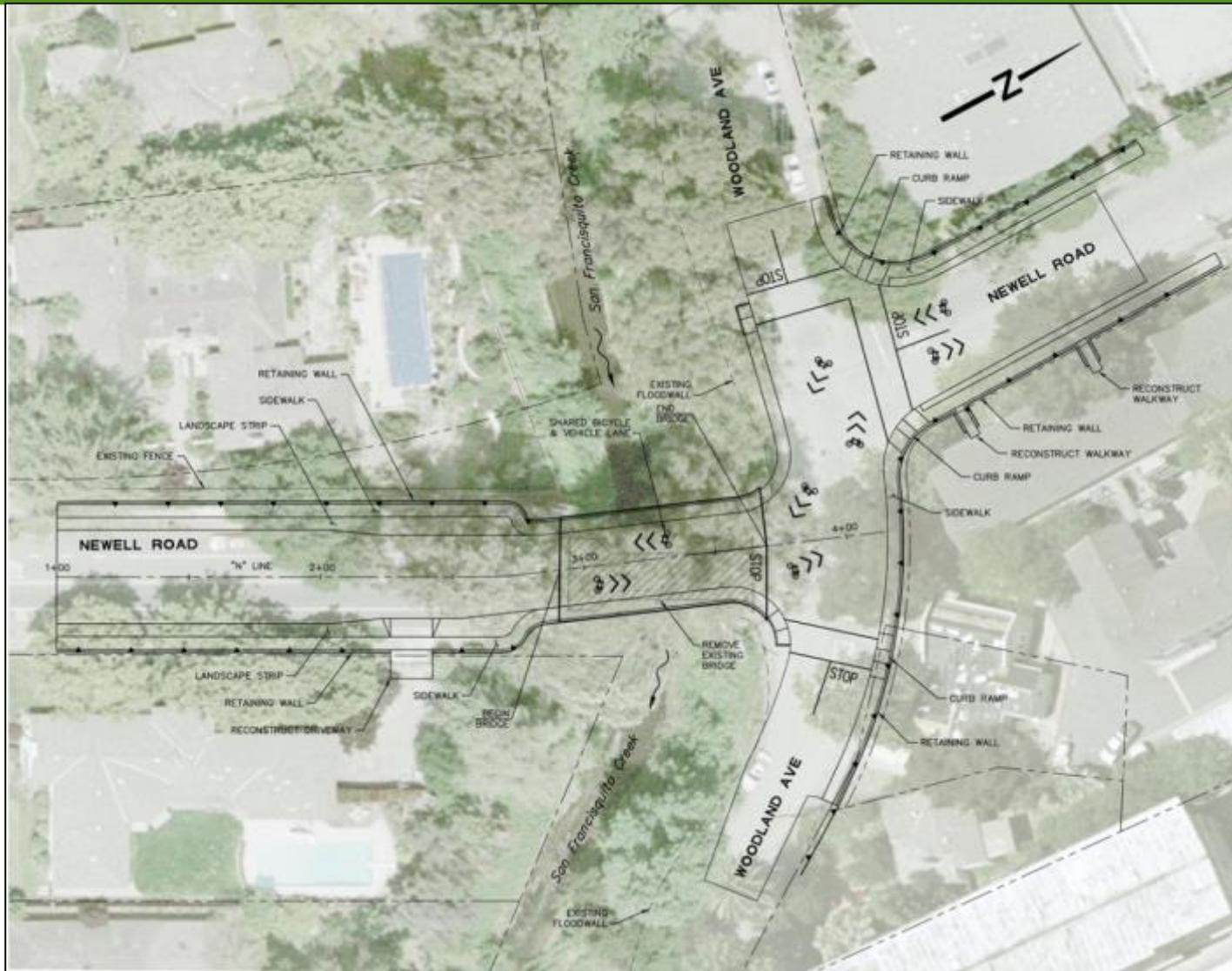
“No Build” Alternative (Keep Existing Bridge)

Alt 2: Two-Lane Bridge – Existing Alignment



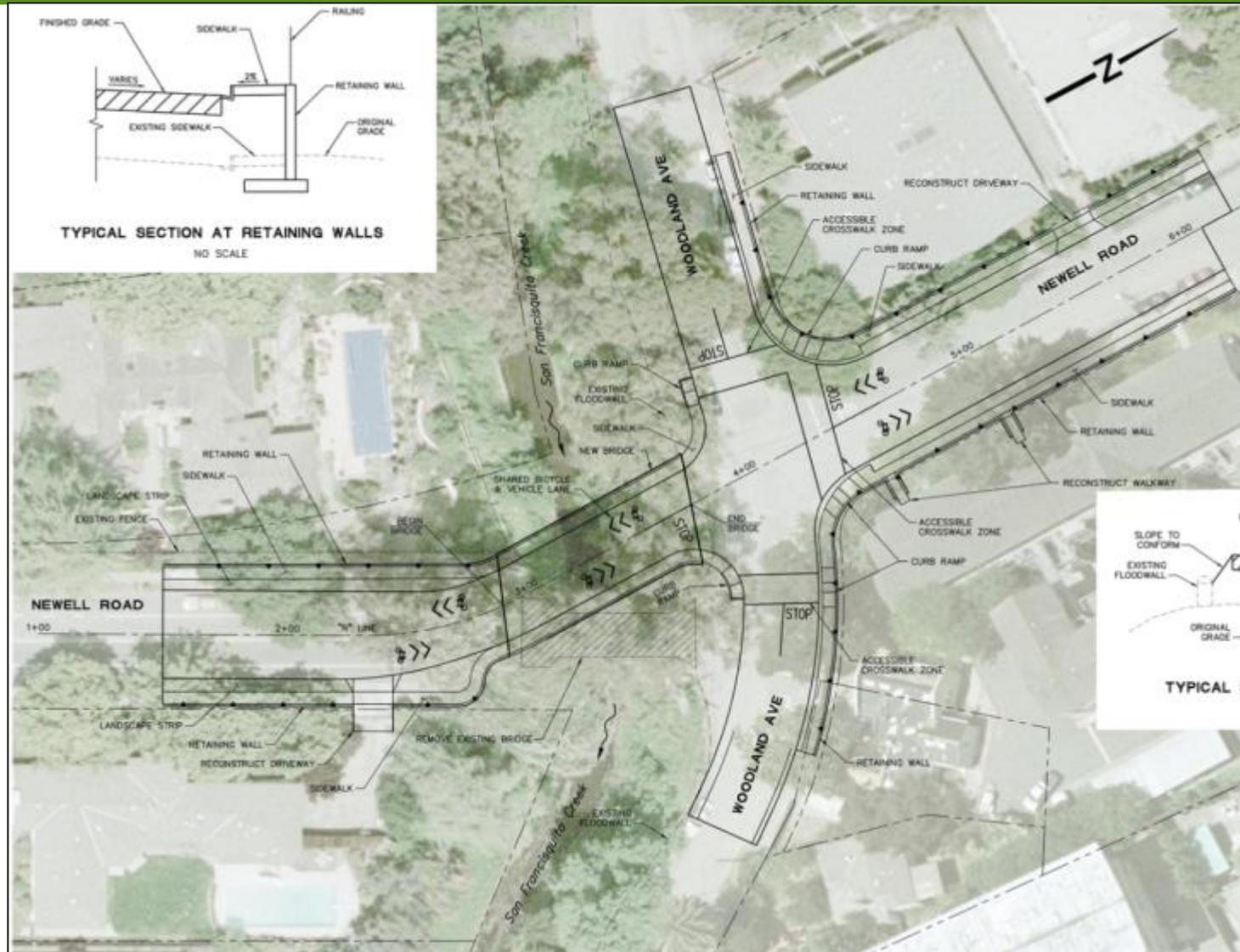
Alternative 2: A two-lane bridge on the existing alignment of Newell Road.

Alt 3: Two-Lane Bridge – Partial Realignment



Alternative 3: A two-lane bridge on a partial realignment of Newell Road.

Alt 4: Two-Lane Bridge – Full Realignment



Alternative 4: A two-lane bridge on a full realignment of Newell Road.

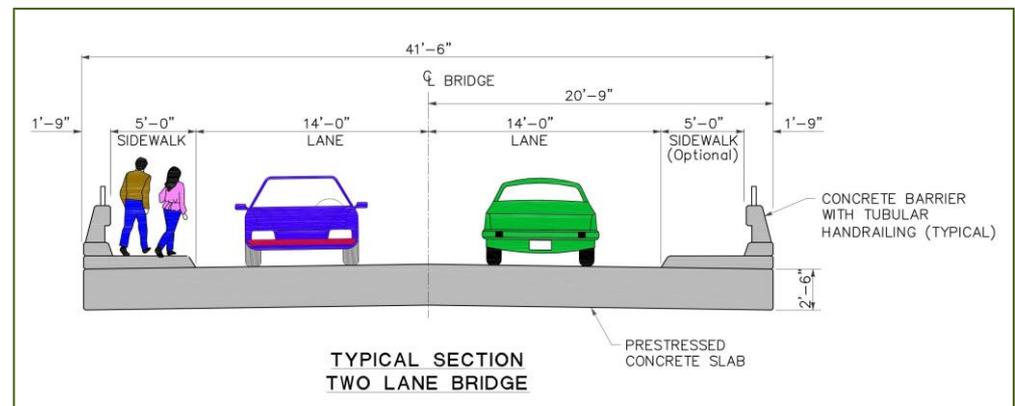
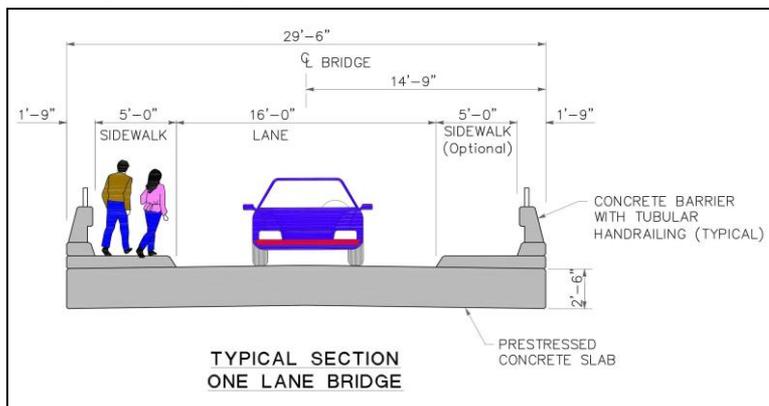
“No Build” Alternative: Keep Existing Bridge

- The “No Build” Alternative does not meet the stated Project Purpose statement
- The “No Build” Alternative is always carried forward in an EIR



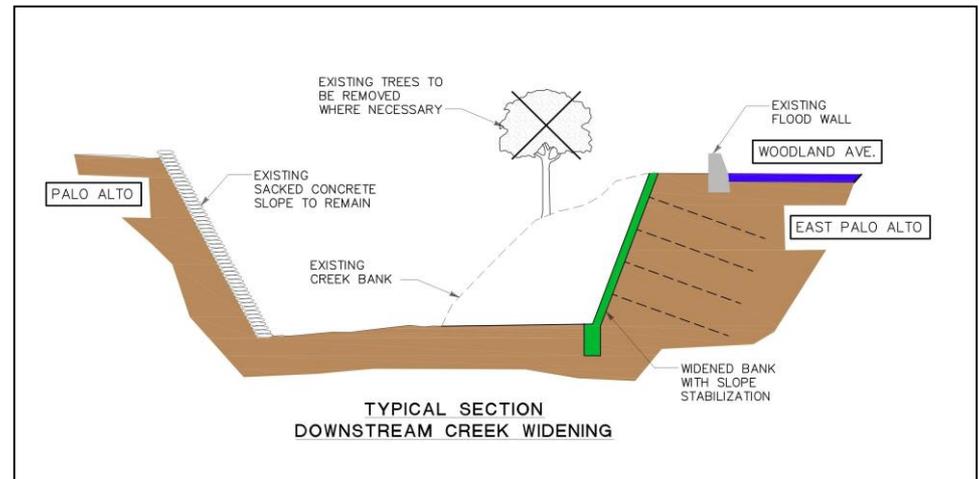
Bridge Dimensions

- The one-lane bridge replacement alternative has a single 16-foot-wide vehicular/bicycle lane (minimum standard), plus one or two pedestrian sidewalks
- The two-lane bridge replacement alternatives have two 14-foot wide vehicular/bicycle lanes (minimum standard), plus one or two pedestrian sidewalks
- The replacement bridge profile being studied is approximately 2 feet higher than the existing bridge to provide additional hydraulic capacity for creek flows



Downstream Channel Widening

- The Project also includes moderate creek widening for a distance of 900 feet downstream of the bridge to eliminate an existing channel capacity bottleneck
- The creek bank will be steepened on the East Palo Alto side to increase the flow capacity of the creek
- The recontoured creek bank will be restored with a bank stabilization technique that allows for the planting of vegetation
- The existing concrete floodwall along Woodland Avenue will remain



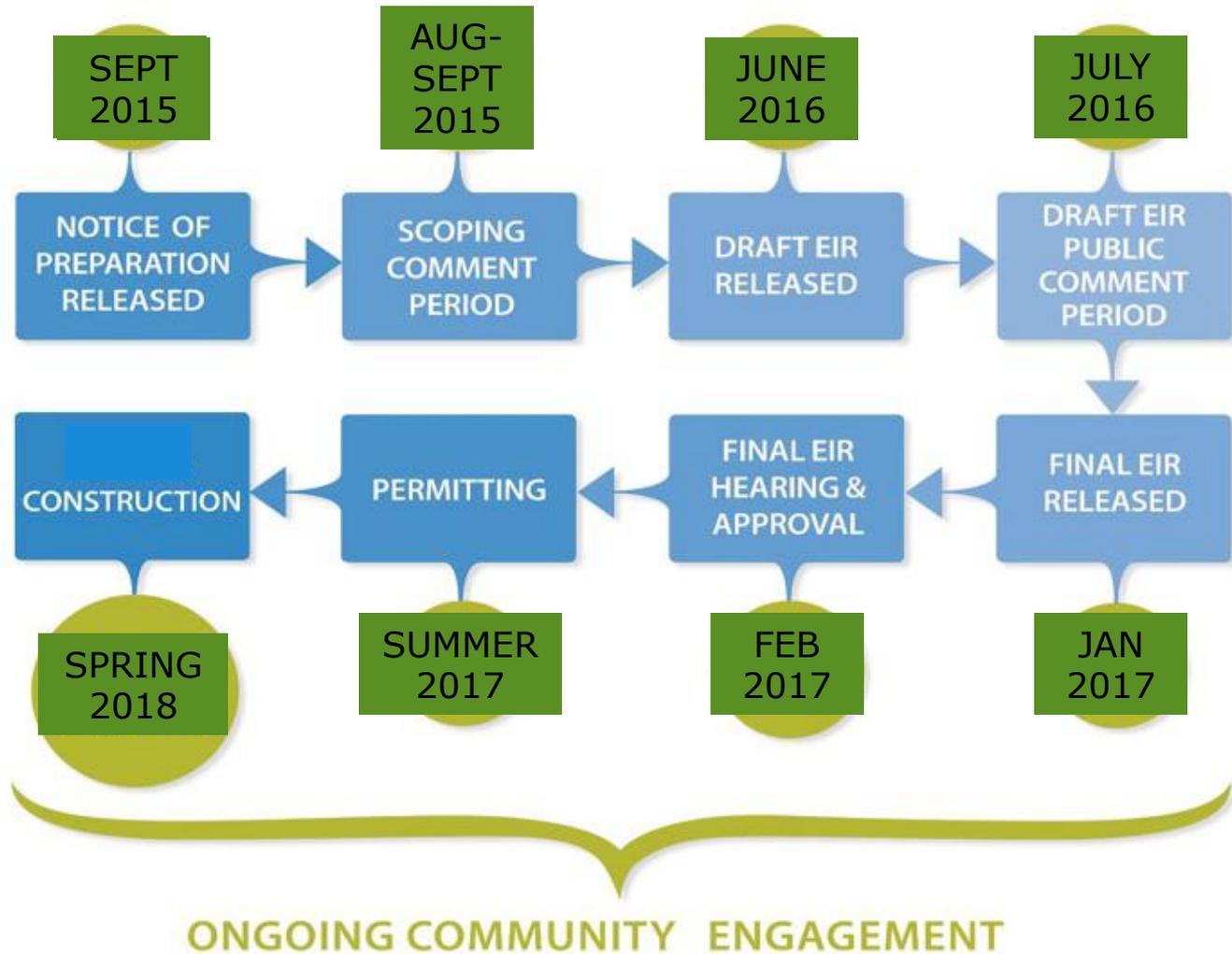
Environmental Review Process

- The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) require state, local, and other agencies to evaluate the environmental implications of their actions
- The City of Palo Alto will serve as the Lead Agency for the CEQA-specified Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- The City of East Palo Alto will serve as a Responsible Agency for the CEQA-specified Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Caltrans (administrator of federal grant funding) will serve as the Lead Agency for the NEPA-specified Environmental Assessment (EA)

Environmental Review Process

- The Project's combined EIR/EA document will:
 - Describe the purpose and need for the project
 - Describe the project elements
 - Describe the local environmental setting
 - Identify potential environmental impacts
 - List ways to avoid or reduce significant impacts
 - Evaluate potential alternatives to the proposed project

Environmental Review Process



Environmental Review Process

Environmental Issues to be Analyzed in the EIR/EA

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Biological Resources
- Community Impacts
- Cultural Resources
- Geology & Soils
- Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use & Planning (including Parks & Recreation Facilities)
- Noise & Vibration
- Population & Housing
- Public Services & Utilities
- Traffic & Transportation
- Cumulative Impacts, Alternatives to the Project, and Growth-Inducing Impacts

Environmental Review Process

Purpose of Scoping Session

- Define breadth and depth of environmental study and analysis
- Opportunity to comment on scope, content, and focus of EIR/EA
- Identify potential environmental issues
- Identify potential project alternatives, evaluation methods, etc.

Environmental Review Process

Relevant Public Comments

- Scope and contents of EIR/EA
- Potential impacts to be analyzed
- Local environmental knowledge
- Methods of how environmental issues are analyzed

Environmental Review Process

Public Comments this Evening

- Two options: Make oral comments or submit a written Comment Card
- Ground rules for oral testimony
 - Submit a Speaker Card if you wish to make a scoping comment
 - Wait to be acknowledged before speaking
 - Use the microphone
 - Be courteous to others speaking
 - Keep comments focused on project and relevant to topic
 - Limit comments to 3 minutes

Environmental Review Process

Written Comments

- The Notice of Preparation is available online at www.cityofpaloalto.org/newell
- Scoping comment period ends at 5:00 pm on Monday, September 14, 2015
- Comment letters by U.S. mail to:

City of Palo Alto
Public Works Engineering Services
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301
Attn: Joe Teresi

Next Steps

- Comments received will be posted to the Project website for public review by **Monday, September 28th**.
- Tonight's Scoping Meeting will be available for on-demand viewing at the Media Center web site:
<http://midpenmedia.org/category/government/city-of-palo-alto/>
- Draft EIR/EA will be available for public review in June 2016
- Public review meetings next summer
 - Palo Alto Planning and Transportation Commission
 - Palo Alto Architectural Review Board
 - East Palo Alto Planning Commission
 - East Palo Alto Public Works & Transportation Committee

Next Steps

Project Contacts

Joe Teresi

Senior Engineer, Palo Alto Public Works

joe.teresi@cityofpaloalto.org

(650) 329-2129

Rajeev Hada

Engineer, Palo Alto Public Works

rajeev.hada@cityofpaloalto.org

(650) 329-2456

Kamal Fallaha

Public Works Director, East Palo Alto

kfallaha@cityofepa.org

(650) 853-3117

Project web site

www.cityofpaloalto.org/newell



Community EIR/EA Scoping Comments