

## CITY OF OAKLAND



DALZIEL BUILDING • 250 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA, 4TH FLOOR • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Public Works Agency

(510) 230-3961  
FAX (510) 230-2233  
TDD (510) 238-7644

April 15, 2004

Mike Petouhoff, President  
Shepherd Canyon Homeowners' Association  
5959 Westover Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94611

Dear Mr. Petouhoff:

Thank you for your continued interest in improvements to Shepherd Canyon Road. I appreciate the patience you have shown over the past several months as we have discussed solutions to the problems you and your neighborhood have brought to our attention. I will address the status of the major issues we have discussed to date, as well as some of the other projects we have in the area.

#### Resurfacing

I am happy to report that the resurfacing of Shepherd Canyon from Snake to Aitken Road is scheduled to begin this week. Base repair will start on April 14<sup>th</sup> and the paving will begin shortly thereafter, no later than April 27. As you probably know, we are using Rubberized Asphalt Concrete on this project. This is a superior resurfacing product which produces an excellent quality surface with high skid resistance and noise attenuation benefits. The cost of this work is \$145,000. Dwight Chambers, our Operations Manager, and his staff have been responsible for getting this contract started.

#### Drainage Problems

Staff from our Engineering and Maintenance Divisions has worked together to analyze the recurring problem with flooding at the dip in the road near the soccer field. There were two sources of flooding at this location. The first was the standpipe on the side of the road near the soccer field. The top of this standpipe had been covered with a debris rack that frequently clogged, preventing water from entering the underground culvert and backing across the road. Our Storm Drainage Maintenance crews have already replaced the debris rack with one modified with an overflow that will not clog. The top of the standpipe has also been placed lower than the roadway to prevent these backups.

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Last year our maintenance crews repaired the pipe leading from the other side of the road to this culvert.

We considered raising the roadway at this location. Unfortunately, the cost for this work was beyond the available funding and would have required guardrail safety features to prevent run-off accidents, and would have delayed the resurfacing. We are confident the improvements described above will prevent future flooding at this location without the need for raising the roadway.

#### Bike Path Guardrail

Construction of a guardrail at this location is estimated to cost \$150,000. Unfortunately, there are extremely limited funds for guardrail construction citywide and there are other locations with higher needs. Our Transportation Services staff evaluates each location for which we have received a guardrail request using standards published in the Caltrans Traffic Manual and other sources. These standards are based on observed incidents of run-off accidents, which typically occur on curves. Priority must be given to locations where a run-off accident would lead to a vehicle running down a steep bank. The location here is a straight portion of roadway and does not meet the criteria for guardrail construction. Due to the funding limitations and needs at other locations, we are unable to construct a guardrail at this location.

We do plan to construct a curb along this portion of Shepherd Canyon to help provide definition to the roadway and protection to the adjacent path. Additionally, we would add a solid white edge stripe, reflectors and delineators along this section to make the edge of roadway more visible. We believe these improvements will improve visibility and safety at this location.

#### Subsidence

Subsidence related to problems with the base structure of the roadway will be addressed as part of the resurfacing. There is also a damaged storm drain culvert at the intersection of Shepherd Canyon and Saroni Drive. We have already initiated repairs of this pipe and the work should be completed within the next two weeks. The cost for this work is \$37,500. The work will be done using trenchless methods. No excavation will be necessary and the repairs will not interfere with the resurfacing work.

Repairs to the manhole at this location were made last year.

#### Curb and Gutter

With the exception of the length of Shepherd Canyon adjacent to the bike path, curb and gutter will not be placed at this time. Construction of curb and gutter will exceed the funds available for the resurfacing project and will require construction of storm drain inlets at regular intervals.

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We are completing a citywide Storm Drainage Master Plan. Depending on whether funding is secured for the capital improvements proposed in the Master Plan, some of these drainage improvements may be made at some time in the future.

Retaining Wall at Saroni

A retaining wall along the bike path immediately below Saroni Drive failed last winter. Our staff is designing a project to replace that wall. This work is estimated to cost \$160,000 and will most likely be constructed this fall. The work will take place off the road and will not affect the resurfaced roadway.


Roadway width

The resurfacing project will repair the edges of the existing roadway. However, at this time there are not funds available to significantly widen the roadway.

I again want to thank you for your interest in our work in this area, and your patience as we pull all these projects together. All told, we have dedicated almost \$400,000 in improvements to this road. I believe you will be very satisfied with the results once they are complete.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

  
Raul Godinez, II, P.E.  
Director

RG/dll

Cc: Hon. Jerry Brown, Mayor  
Hon. Jean Quan, Council Member, District 4  
Dwight Chambers  
Wladimir Wlassowsky  
Michael Neary