**Description of the project.**

Project Description - The Shell Beach Streetscape project is an 18 block long Complete Streets project improving safety and livability in the community for users of all ages and abilities by reconstructing the roadway, increasing lighting and landscaping, adding an 8-foot-wide multi-use path to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians, and painting sharrows in the traffic lanes. The improvements include sidewalk upgrades, ADA accessibility upgrades, improvements to the drainage, resurfacing of the roadway, new crosswalks with paver inlays for increased visibility, enhanced landscaping with new trees and a new parking lot. Decorative features such as new LED streetlights, new benches, trash cans and public art have been installed throughout the corridor. This project was much more than just a streets and roads project; it also upgraded the existing water infrastructure and undergrounded the existing overhead utilities along the entire 18-block corridor.

This project reached approval through the dedicated efforts of the City Council, community and City Staff. The Shell Beach Streetscape Project began as a community concept in 2005 and a Master Plan was developed in 2007, which was approved in 2009. The project is the largest capital improvement project in the City of Pismo Beach’s history and was a major goal of the City Council. The project kicked off with a celebration for the community that included a parade and groundbreaking followed by a festival at Dinosaur Caves Park at the south end of the project corridor with music, games, food and culminated with an outdoor movie in the park.

Project Schedule - The City Council awarded the $12.2M construction contract on June 19, 2018 to John Madonna Construction Company. The project kicked off on August 24, 2018. The original contract completion date was set for May 1, 2020. However, change orders due to the COVID pandemic as well as material procurement delays and scheduling delays associated with the utility companies pushed the project completion date to June 15, 2021.

The contractor, John Madonna Construction, construction manager, Cannon, and the City worked diligently through these varied issues to keep the project moving even during the State and County Stay at Home orders. Unavoidable delays with the utility companies during the 2019 California fire season were addressed by adjusting the work schedule to maximize contractor efficiency. To address the long lead times for custom orders and materials, the City allowed for early submittals and approvals to meet the construction contract completion deadlines.

Weekly project meetings, daily site visits, and online construction management software PROCORE allowed for seamless plan revisions, product submittals and tracking for the entire project team. The schedule was managed and updated on a weekly basis by the contractor and reviewed and approved by both the construction manager and City each month. Schedule updates from the contractor were required for progress pay. Open lines of communication among the three parties helped guide the project, manage unforeseen delays, and maximize productivity.

Safety - The project site is located in the village of Shell Beach and stretches 18 blocks. There is a high volume of traffic both pedestrian and vehicular throughout the corridor. The City, contractor and construction manager took special precautions to keep the project site safe and secure.

The southern end of the corridor is adjacent to the City’s most popular public park, and site of many community events. The northern end of the corridor is adjacent to the local elementary school, which sees high volumes of traffic at pick up and drop off times during the week. The City, contractor and construction manager restricted work hours around the elementary school to minimize impacts to school drop-offs, pick-ups and special events. In order to complete the work effectively and in a safe manner, some pedestrian and traffic restrictions were necessary, including lane closures which reduced traffic to one lane. On-site signage was posted to advise of all lane closures and pedestrian crossings. Creative solutions were implemented to maximize parking while providing a safe working zone. At one point in the project, this resulted in the “swervy curvy” road, which gained national media attention and it’s very own Doc Bornstein’s Ice Cream Flavor. The “swervy curvy” road created safe work zones on the “freeway” side of the project, while maximizing parking on the “business” side of the project.

Daily safety meetings were held as well as orientations whenever new subcontractors and consultants entered the site. All personnel were required to wear PPE, including hard hats, high-visibility vests, steel toed shoes, and eventually facemasks for COVID. There were no lost-time injuries during the course of the project.

Community Outreach - The Shell Beach Improvement Group, a local community organization, actively supported the project from its inception through collaboration with the City on outreach and communications. Over twenty public meetings and workshops were held during the design phase of the project to ensure the community could provide input on everything from the placement of the multi-purpose trail, to the landscaping, street furnishings and streetlights. Just prior to and during construction, residents and businesses were supported by an outreach grant from PG&E. SCORE, a nationwide nonprofit dedicated to entrepreneur education and mentorship, actively supported opportunities for Shell Beach businesses to manage their business success throughout the project, providing one-on-one assistance to businesses at no charge.

Message boards were used throughout construction to notify drivers of the construction. Three public information kiosks were placed throughout the project corridor that were updated weekly with current project updates and construction schedules. All project updates were also posted on the City’s website. Regular updates were provided at City Council and Planning Commission meetings. City staff conducted a series of public meetings address questions from the public regarding the project.

Unusual Accomplishments - The Shell Beach Road Streetscape Project is among the largest projects ever done by the City. It is not a single project but combines several much-needed large projects into one even larger project. Any single one of these projects would be challenging on their own and would cause construction impacts. By taking on the monumental task of combining these projects the City has reduced the overall impacts to the residents and businesses.

* It is an overhead wire utility undergrounding project and one of PG&E’s most difficult to design and implement.
* It is a storm water project adding and upsizing storm drains to enhance drainage.
* It is a water system upgrade project upsizing the existing waterline to provide additional fire protection for our community.
* It is a parking enhancement project providing a new parking lot for the businesses, residents, and visitors.
* It is a complete street project creating opportunities for a more healthy and vibrant community promoting active walking and biking.
* It is a beatification project adding more landscaping and amenities such as decorative fencing, trash cans, benches and public art.
* It is a safe route to school enhancement for our children, families, and residents providing wider sidewalks, a detached multi use pathway, crosswalks, and streetlights. Prior to the project, students walking to school had to cross up to 16 streets depending on where they live; however, now they can cross Shell Beach Road once to access the multi-use path and then a second time at the school.
* It is a paving project providing replacing the old asphalt pavement with a new smooth road.

Through this lofty endeavor the City has worked closely sometimes on a weekly, daily, and hourly basis with PG&E, AT&T, Charter, Caltrans, San Luis Obispo County Lopez Lake, Phillips66 oil, Union Oil, San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority, Shell Beach Elementary, SLOCOG, and countless hours working with impacted residents and business.

The City continued to keep the construction work moving forward through PG&E Bankruptcy, back-to-back wet winters and 100 year storms, historic wildfire seasons, and COVID19.

This project was a community driven project brought to the City by the residents and business and the City was committed to seeing this legacy project through to final completion.

Additional Considerations - The Shell Beach Streetscape project supports efficient transportation alternatives, which in turn improves air quality and the health of the Shell Beach residents. The project connects neighborhoods to jobs and services while enabling bicycle and walking trips to schools, transit and parks for residents and visitors. Downtown driving is reduced by facilitating a “park-once” concept, in which visitors and workers can park in one location and then utilize the path and sidewalks to travel to various destinations along the corridor. The project improves and enhances the neighborhood and the economic vitality of the village of Shell Beach by drawing people to shop, live, and work in the community. Previously the sidewalks were in substandard condition and did not meet ADA requirements. Overhead street lighting along the corridor was insufficient and the skyline view was polluted with overhead utilities. The Shell Beach Road corridor is included on the city-wide Pismo Beach Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and is a key connector to downtown Pismo Beach. The traffic calming improvements such as bulb-outs, narrow lanes, and distinctive crosswalks, reduce vehicular speeds, and the bicycle/pedestrian path is separated from vehicle traffic which creates a multimodal space that is safe for all users.