

KEY PROJECTS UPDATE – AUGUST 2018

(Items numbered for reference only & not priority. Does not include all projects.)

1. **Utility Undergrounding** – On July 17, 2018, the City Council authorized placement of the Laguna Beach Utility Undergrounding and Fire Safety Measure on the November ballot to increase sales tax by 1%, from 7.75% to 8.75%. The measure is a special tax requiring a two-thirds vote for approval. On May 22, 2018, the City Council also directed staff to pursue two undergrounding districts along Coast Highway and Monterey/Virginia to be funded by Rule 20A credits. The City has also acquired \$4.3 million of Rule 20A credits over the last two years at a cost of \$2.4 million dollars, saving \$1.9 million. (S. Dupuis, December 31, 2018)
2. **Historic Preservation Ordinance Update** – The City Council set a meeting for September 18, 2018, to provide direction to City staff regarding how to interpret various legal issues associated with the formation of a new ordinance. The Historic Preservation Task Force’s meetings are on hold until the City Council can provide direction on September 18. (G. Pfof, December 31, 2018)
3. **Trial Downtown Traffic and Pedestrian Flow Programs** – On March 27, 2018, the City Council directed staff to proceed with scramble intersections on Coast Highway at Forest Avenue and Laguna Avenue, extending the left turn lane for southbound traffic on Coast Highway at Broadway Avenue and Legion Street, and further studying options for Ocean Avenue. City staff are now proceeding with design of the improvements and plan to install the improvements by the end of 2020, subject to schedule coordination with the Caltrans Coast Highway pavement overlay project. (S. Dupuis, December 2020)
4. **Village Entrance Project** – On August 7, 2018, the City Council approved the award of a construction contract to complete the Village Entrance project. Work is scheduled to begin in September. Preceding the construction, renovation of the old Recreation building and 479 Ocean Avenue has been completed and City staff have been moved into City buildings to allow various trailers behind City Hall to be removed. The Village Entrance Project will be completed in two phases and will reopen before the summer of 2020. (S. Dupuis, Summer 2020)
5. **Safety Project to convert State Highway 133 to two outbound lanes north of El Toro Road and to extend inbound lane merge near Willow Canyon parking lot** – The City and community participated in several meetings on this matter and expressed concerns about the project. The areas of greatest concern seem to focus on the extension of the inbound merge lane near Anneliese School and the Willow Canyon parking lot. Caltrans is reviewing the concerns, studying alternatives, and is expected to provide additional information by the end of 2018. The City will continue to participate in project development team meetings. (S. Dupuis, ongoing)
6. **Downtown Specific Plan Update** – The Planning Commission has held numerous meetings and is targeting recommendations to the City Council in December 2018. (G. Pfof, December 31, 2018)
7. **Improving Laguna Canyon Road (from Downtown to El Toro)** – A cooperative agreement is in place between Caltrans and the City to develop a project study report for improvements to Laguna Canyon Road. Preparation of this report requires coordination with Caltrans, County of Orange, SCE, and OCTA, which will better position Laguna Canyon Road improvements for future funding opportunities at the federal, state, county and regional levels. Per prior direction

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by the City Council, the improvements will not include adding vehicular lanes to the road. (S. Dupuis, June 2019)

8. **Laguna Canyon Channel Capacity Improvements – Beach Street to the Ocean** – The City Council approved a design to increase the channel capacity by eliminating constriction points and rehabilitating deteriorated portions of the channel. The project design should be completed by the end of 2018. (S. Dupuis, December 31, 2018)
9. **Landscape and Scenic Highways Element and Resource Document** – Per City Council direction on April 10, 2018, City staff is updating the draft Element and Resource Document. The revisions will return to the City Council for further evaluation and approval in the fall of 2018. (G. Pfof, October 31, 2018)
10. **Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance** – On August 7, 2018, the City Council approved the first reading of a revised Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance. The Second reading will occur after the end of the current legislative session so that the impacts of any relevant new legislation can be considered. (G. Pfof, October 31, 2018)
11. **Short-Term Lodging Ordinance** – In December 2017, the California Coastal Commission denied the City’s requested revision to its ordinance. The City is engaged in a Tolling Agreement with the California Coastal Commission that preserves its legal options while discussing the matter with staff for the Commission. City staff is planning to present options to the City Council by the end of December 2018. (G. Pfof, December 31, 2018)
12. **Tree Replanting** – On August 7, 2018, the City Council approved the replanting of 27 trees in the downtown area and along Coast Highway. The trees are anticipated to be replanted by the end of December. (S. Dupuis, December 31, 2018)
13. **Fuel Modification Program** – The City was notified that its \$4.2 million grant application was accepted for work in Laguna Canyon. The work will be completed by March 31, 2021. The City is also applying for a grant to modify fuels along Park Avenue and that application is still pending. (M. Garcia, March 31, 2021).
14. **“Park Plaza”** – Following a trial program, on March 27, 2018, the City Council directed staff to proceed with plans to convert lower Park Avenue into a permanent or semi-permanent pedestrian plaza. A consultant will prepare conceptual plans for various options to be presented at a community meeting and be reviewed by the City Council in the spring of 2019. (C. Johnson/S. Dupuis, December 31, 2020)
15. **Tree Removal Permit Process** – The City Council approved a new ordinance on June 26, 2018, that took effect on July 26, 2018. The City also sent out a “Check before you Chop” postcard informing residents of the new procedures. (Complete)