


CITY OF COOS BAY
JOINT CITY COUNCIL / URA WORK SESSION
Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE January 31, 2017	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
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TO: Mayor Benetti and City Councilors (or URA Chair Kramer and Board Members)

FROM: Jan Kerbo, Resident Project Engineer

THROUGH: Rodger Craddock, City Manager
Jim Hossley, Public Works Director 

ISSUE: Potential Impacts Associated with the Wastewater Treatment Plant 2 Project

BACKGROUND:

Construction has started on the project to replace Wastewater Treatment Plant 2 (WWTP2) at a site on the east side of S. Empire Blvd. The construction will create temporary conditions that impact local traffic and access for the areas adjacent to the plant site on Fulton Avenue and Empire Blvd. The contractor has proposed four issues that require approval by the City.

1. **Road Closure:** There is no room on the new site to store construction materials and rock while the plant is built. The City has reserved the City owned lots between S. Empire Blvd and the bay that are south of Fulton Avenue to use as a staging area for the contractor to store equipment and materials and to use as parking for the workers. During construction, equipment will be going between this site and the new plant site carrying loads of rock and other materials. Construction vehicles will be parked along and off the west section of Fulton Avenue.

This section of Fulton Avenue, west of S. Empire Blvd, has an unimproved parking area and a trail that is used by the public to access the bay beach south of the existing wastewater plant. Staff is concerned that allowing the public to access the portion of Fulton Avenue, west of S. Empire Blvd, to access the beach during construction hours may create a safety hazard to the public. The public does not wear the personal protective equipment required by the job site conditions and has not been trained in the safety measures required to be around the construction equipment moving materials. Further, the west end of Fulton will be congested by the construction parking and the job trailer, reducing visibility of pedestrians and public auto traffic to the equipment operators.

Staff is requesting closing Fulton Avenue between S. Empire Blvd and the bay to public pedestrian and vehicle access during construction hours only for the duration of the construction on WWTP2. Signs would be installed at Fulton Avenue on the west side of Empire Blvd indicating when the road is closed and when the road is open. The road will be open in the evenings and on weekends. The restriction would be lifted at the completion of the project. The reason for the closure is to protect the safety of the public.

2. **Proposed Crosswalk:** The contractor and site representative job offices are on the west side of Empire Blvd so that they don't impact neighborhood use of streets east of Empire Blvd. However, the contractors and City representatives will need to cross S. Empire Blvd as needed during construction. This is an area that normally has infrequent pedestrian crossings and City staff and the contractor are concerned that motorists will not be aware of workers attempting to cross the road. Mortenson has proposed installing a temporary crosswalk on S. Empire Blvd aligned on the north side of Fulton Avenue. The crosswalk would have signs and flashing lights activated by push buttons on either side of the road. The crosswalk would be painted on the road. Flags would be placed in stands on both sides of Empire Blvd and all workers on the project would be trained to carry a flag across the road when crossing as an additional measure. The crosswalk lights, stripes, and flags would remain during the entire construction period and would be removed at the completion of the project.
3. **Construction Schedule:** Typically, the City allows construction during the hours of 7am and 6pm (Coos Bay Municipal Code 9.20.010(7)). Mortenson plans on adhering to working within this timeframe and in addition has requested to work not more than 10 weekends throughout the construction duration. Such work may be required so that a portion of the work that requires a high level of effort to shut down and reopen could be performed on a continuous basis. Large concrete pours or work requiring bypass pumping are examples of such work. The Municipal Code does not prohibit this, however due to the project being in a residential area and adjacent to a road that receives high summer traffic flows, staff wanted to coordinate with Council regarding this request.
4. **Loading Zone:** Mortenson and City staff have coordinated with the neighbors. This coordination is in the form of posting the project on the City's website, public service announcements, letters to the local residents, and canvassing the immediate neighbors. City staff coordinated with the owners of Lighthouse Market on the southeast corner of Empire Boulevard and Fulton Avenue and they have requested that the City install a loading zone on the south side of Fulton Avenue east of Empire Boulevard. This loading zone is meant to insure that delivery vehicles have access to the market. The zone would also reduce congestion on Fulton during construction by providing more open space for construction trucks to exit the site and for detoured traffic to navigate onto Fulton from S. Empire Blvd.

ADVANTAGES:

1. **Road Closure:** Closure of the road would provide safety to both pedestrians and vehicular traffic. The road would be open after construction hours and on weekends and holidays in which work is not being performed.
2. **Proposed Crosswalk.** The temporary crosswalk will provide safety to both pedestrians and vehicular traffic
3. **Construction Schedule:** Allowing the contractor to have the ability to work weekends will avoid construction delays.
4. **Loading Zone:** Allowing the loading zone will provide the project site's neighbor an area to accept deliveries and not be in conflict with traffic and parked vehicles.

DISADVANTAGES:

1. **Road Closure:** The public accesses the bay beach through this area for recreation purposes and to dig sand shrimp for fishing bait. Their access would be limited to evenings, weekends and holidays during construction of the new plant.
2. **Proposed Crosswalk:** Staff sees none.
3. **Construction Schedule:** Working weekends may impact traffic and the immediate neighbors.
4. **Loading Zone:** Staff sees none.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

None.

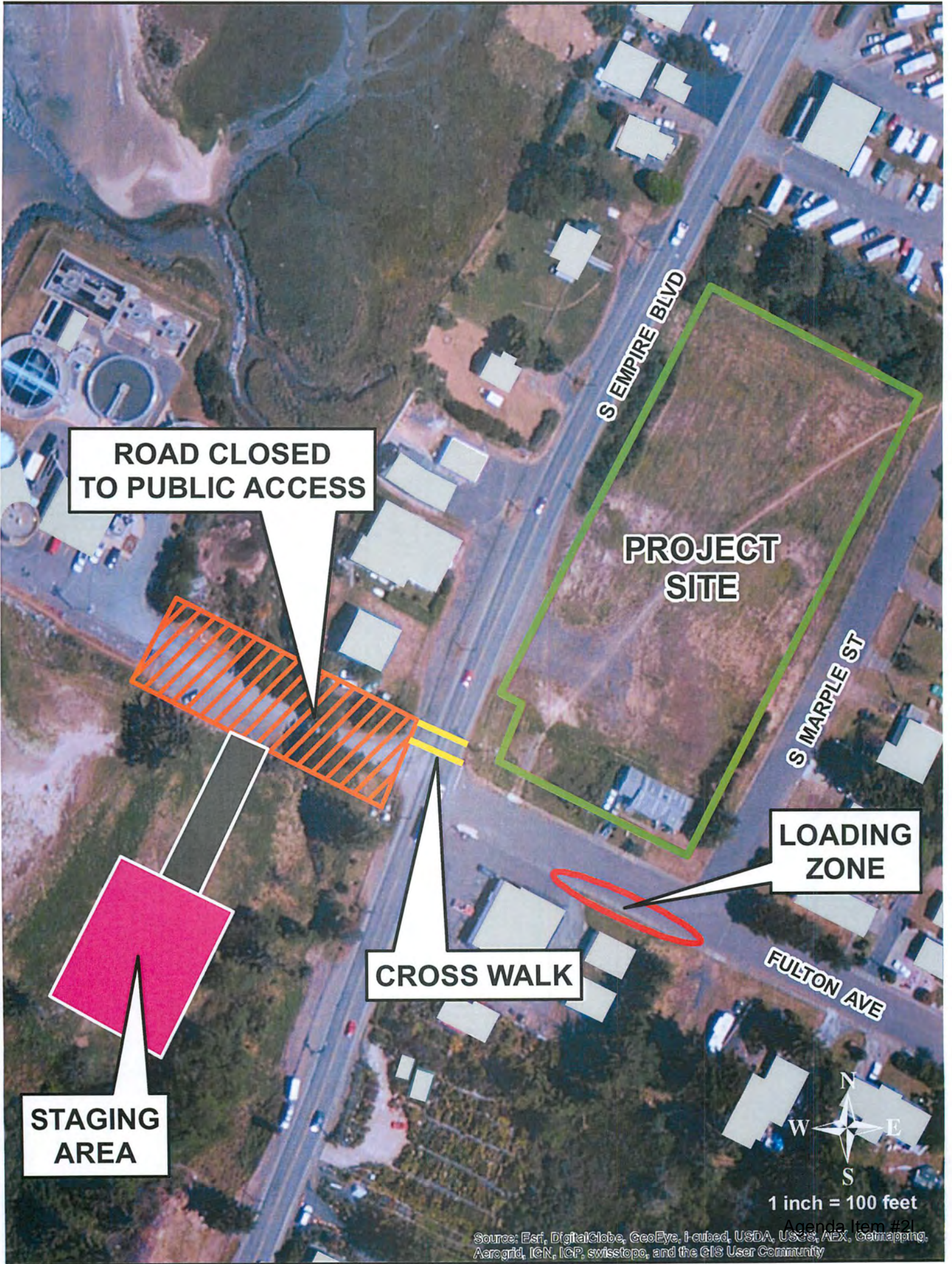
ACTION REQUESTED:

At the February 7th Council meeting, staff will request the City Council consider approval of the following in accordance with the details described in this staff report:

- the temporary closure of Fulton Avenue during construction hours only,
- the installation of a temporary crosswalk,
- allowing Mortenson to work up to 10 weekends, and
- the installation of a loading zone along Fulton Avenue.

ATTACHMENTS:

Map showing road closure area, location of proposed crosswalk and loading zone



ROAD CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS

PROJECT SITE

LOADING ZONE

CROSS WALK

STAGING AREA

FULTON AVE

S EMPIRE BLVD

S MARPLE ST



1 inch = 100 feet