



PRESS RELEASE

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CITY OF SARATOGA COMPLETES HIGHWAY 9 PHASE 3 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Saratoga, CA. On October 19, 2012 at 4:00 p.m., the City of Saratoga will host a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of the Highway 9 Phase 3 Safety Improvements. The event will take place at the corner of Highway 9 and Austin Way, where most of the Phase 3 Safety Improvements have taken place.

The Highway 9 safety improvement project is a multi-agency collaboration between the City of Saratoga, City of Monte Sereno, and Town of Los Gatos to make Highway 9, a state-owned scenic road, safer for pedestrians and bicyclists.

“The time, effort, and funding that our local communities have invested toward this project shows our strong collaboration and initiative to respond to our community members’ concerns about traffic safety on Highway 9,” said Mayor Chuck Page. “The improvements will also increase physical activity opportunities by creating safer pedestrian pathways and bicycle access that lead our residents to local destinations.”

The cost for Phase 3 Safety Improvements totaled approximately \$550,000, of which 83% was funded by Proposition 116, the Clean Air and Transportation Improvement Act of 1990 (CATIA). This CATIA grant allocates \$20 million of its \$1.99 billion toward bicycle improvement projects for bicycle commuters. The remaining balance of the project was paid for by the City of Saratoga, City of Monte Sereno, Town of Los Gatos, Santa Clara County, and Valley Transportation Authority.

Since 2002, a high number of collisions have occurred on the 4.4 mile corridor of Highway 9 between the City of Saratoga and Town of Los Gatos as a result of bicycle and pedestrian collisions with vehicles. Saratoga, Monte Sereno, and Los Gatos conducted a public process to prepare a Highway 9 Safety Improvement Master Plan, which was approved in 2006. The Master Plan includes bicycle facilities on both sides of Highway 9, a continuous pedestrian pathway along the corridor, and safe pedestrian crossings areas along Highway 9 between Saratoga and Los Gatos.

Construction for Phase 3 Safety Improvements began in March 2012 and included the realignment of Austin Way and Highway 9 intersection, installation of new medians at Austin

Way, bicycle detection system at all signalized intersections, and the widening of the Highway 9 in Los Gatos to accommodate a bicycle lane.

Phase 1 was administered by the Town of Los Gatos and included installation of bicycle lanes on both sides of Highway 9 and two pedestrian-activated lighted crosswalks – one at Vickery Avenue in Saratoga, the other at Massol Avenue in Los Gatos . The improvements were completed in 2008 and were funded by a federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant and matching funds from the cities.

Phase 2 and Phase 4 improvements will be managed by the City of Saratoga and will include installation of pedestrian pathways, curbs, retaining walls, driveway modifications, crosswalks, signage, and striping on Highway 9 between Saratoga and Monte Sereno. Construction for Phase 2 will begin in November 2012 and end in the spring of 2013. Phase 4 construction will begin in the fall of 2013 and will be complete in the spring of 2014. The Highway 9 safety improvement project has been divided into four phases as a result of funding limitations; the cost of the four phases totals approximately \$4 million. Future phases will be determined as funding becomes available.

Mayor Page is available for comments and is reachable by mobile phone at (408) 839-9555.

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