



Information Item

Date: September 9, 2015

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Martin Pastucha, Director of Public Works
Subject: Colorado Esplanade – Construction Phasing Update

Introduction

The Colorado Esplanade Project is a circulation infrastructure and streetscape project located between the future terminus of the regional Expo Light Rail Line, Downtown, and the Santa Monica Pier. The final design of the project was approved by Council on [May 14, 2013](#), and a revised design of a portion of the project was presented to Council in a [September 2, 2014](#) Information Item. The construction contract with All American Asphalt was awarded by Council on [January 27, 2015](#). Construction began in March 2015 and is expected to be completed by April 2016. The project is being constructed in two phases. Phase 1 includes construction on the north side of Colorado Avenue and Phase 2 includes construction on the south side (Figure 1). The transition from Phase 1 to Phase 2 will begin on September 14, 2015 and is expected to be completed by November 25, 2015 prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. This information item describes the traffic changes associated with the transition of phases.

Background

In order to minimize disruptions to pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle traffic on Colorado Avenue this project is set up to have construction take place in two phases. Phase 1 involves construction on the north side of Colorado while shifting westbound traffic to the south side and includes new decorative pavers, wood decking, trees, and an asphalt roadway. Phase 2 involves construction on the south side of Colorado while shifting westbound traffic to the north side and includes new decorative pavers, landscaping, trees, concrete sidewalks, a separated two-way bike path, a realigned roadway from Main Street to 2nd Street, and decorative string lighting (Figure 1).

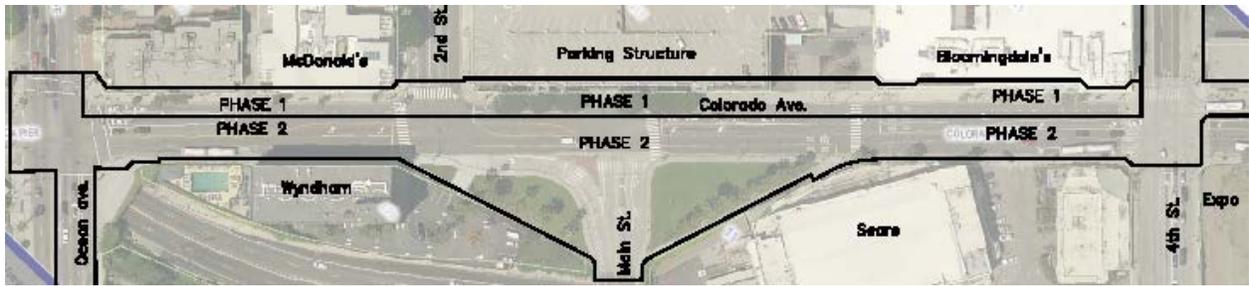


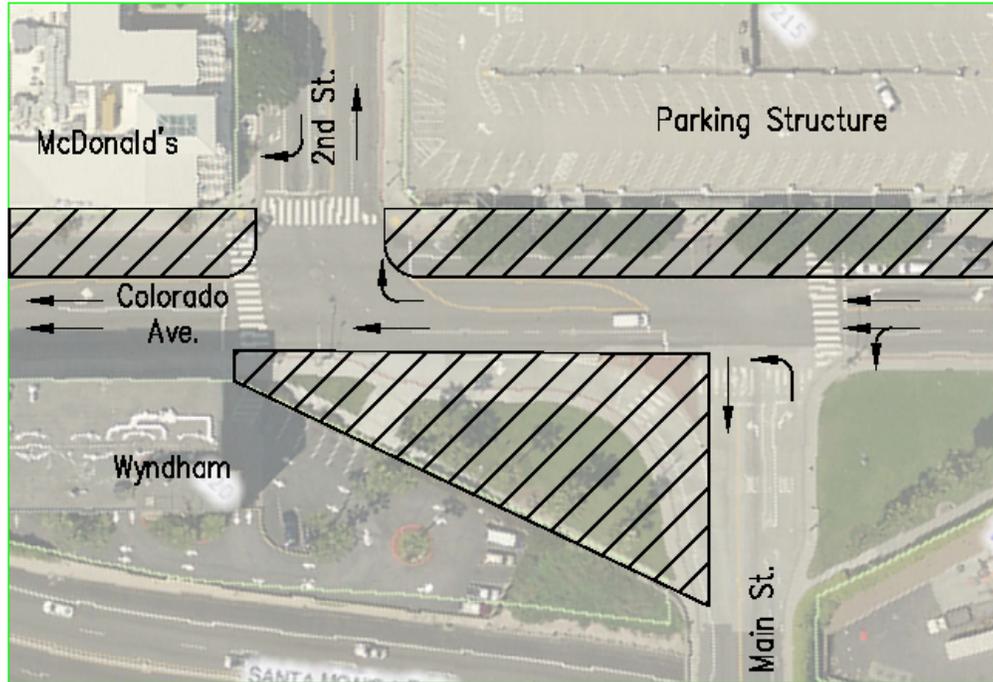
Figure 1

Discussion

The project is currently in Phase 1 but the construction team will begin transitioning to Phase 2 on September 14, 2015. The transition is expected to take roughly two months and will be completed by November 25, 2015. After the realigned roadway from Main Street to 2nd Street is completed westbound traffic on Colorado Avenue will be shifted to the north side of the newly constructed roadway of the Colorado Esplanade (see Figure 5). By November 25, 2015, the realigned roadway will be fully open to vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic for the north and southbound traffic connection from 2nd Street to Main Street.

Below is a sketch of the Main Street, Colorado Avenue, and 2nd Street area as it is currently arranged for Phase 1. The triangular area shown below was closed to rebuild a sewer siphon vault structure that will be underneath the new realigned roadway (Figure 2).

Phase 1 – Current Phase Until 9/13/15



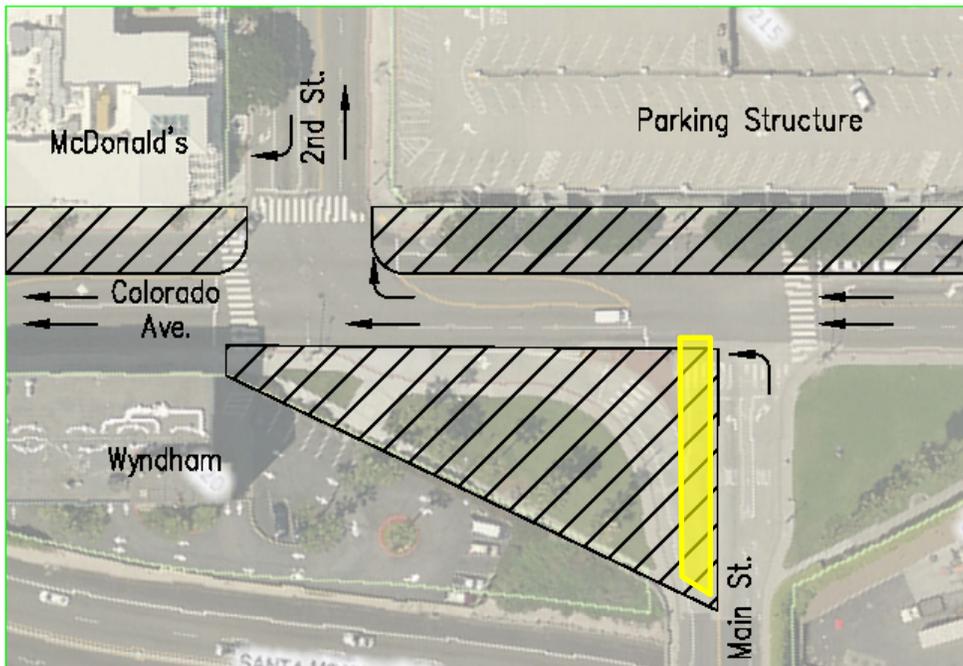
Legend

-  Construction area. Closed to public
-  Vehicle movements allowed

Figure 2

The transition into Phase 2 will consist of two Sub-Phases A and B. Sub-Phase A will further close the area where the transition roadway is to be built. This sub-phase will eliminate the left bound turn from westbound Colorado Avenue onto southbound Main Street. This closure and elimination of this left turn is expected to last the majority of the roughly two month transition time beginning on September 14, 2015 until November 25, 2015 (Figure 3).

Sub-Phase A – To Begin 9/14/15



Legend

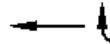
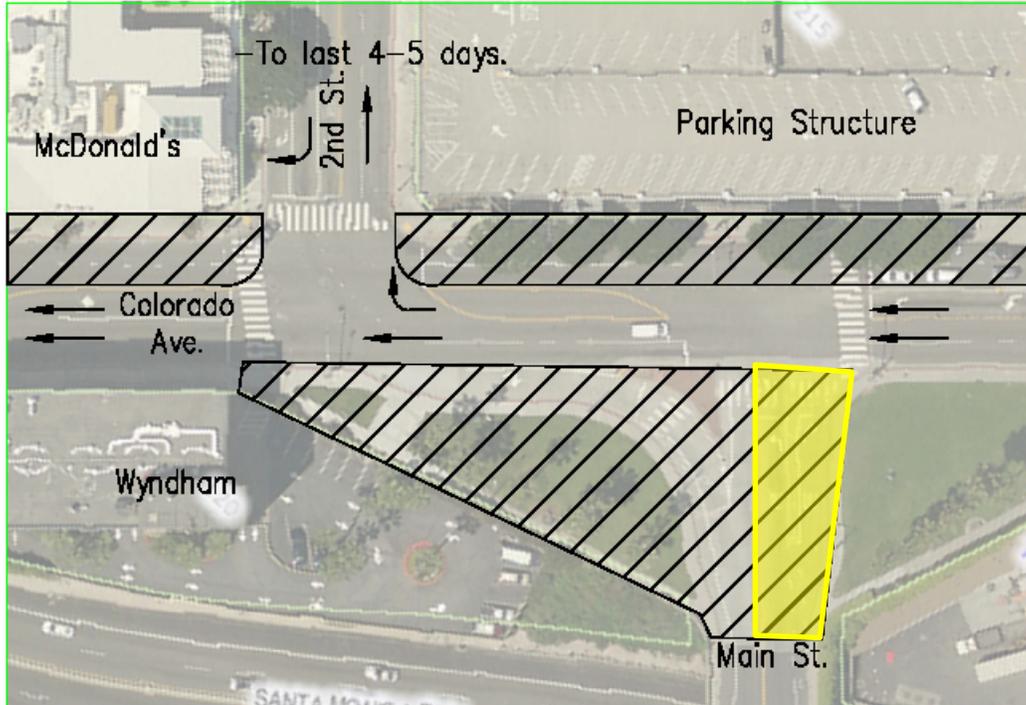
-  Construction area. Closed to public
-  Vehicle movements allowed

Figure 3 (highlighted area is newly added construction area)

Sub-Phase B will include a complete closure of the access from Colorado Avenue to Main Street for a 4-5 day period. This is necessary to complete the realigned roadway construction and final striping (Figure 4). This closure will likely occur during the last few weeks of the closure around the beginning of November 2015.

Sub-Phase B –Following Sub-Phase A



Legend

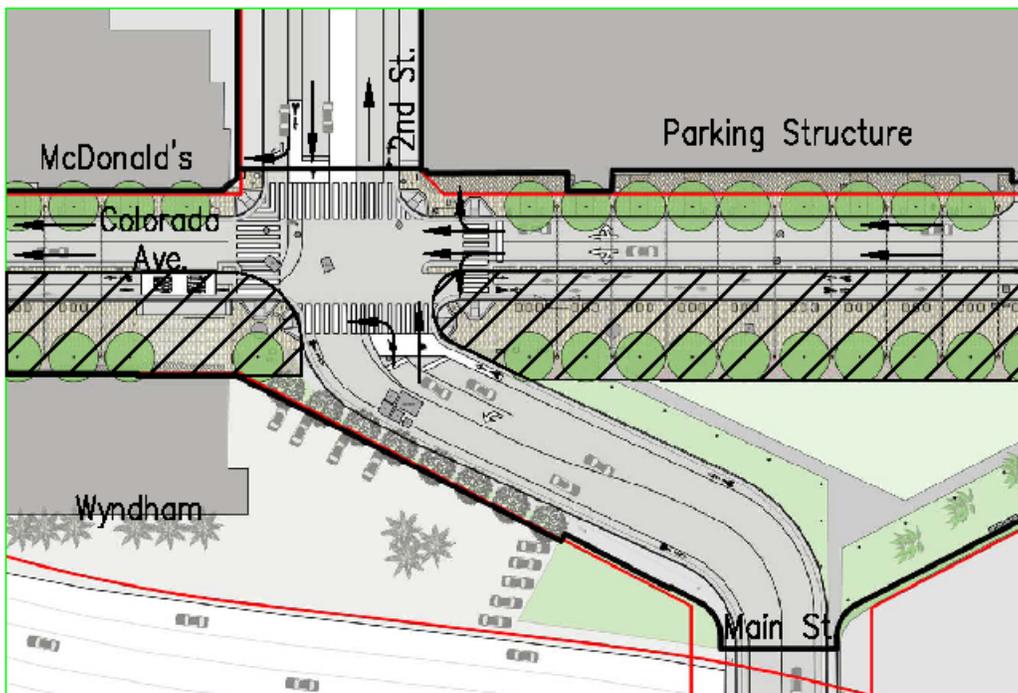
-  Construction area. Closed to public
-  Vehicle movements allowed

Figure 4 (highlighted area is newly added construction area)

During both Sub-Phase A and B southbound access to Main Street near City Hall will require utilizing Olympic Drive by way of Ocean Avenue or 4th Street.

Upon completion of Phase 2 the completed realigned roadway will be open for north and southbound traffic from 2nd Street to Main Street by November 25, 2015 prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. Vehicles will be able to turn from westbound Colorado Avenue onto southbound Main Street in this phase. Vehicle traffic along Colorado Avenue will be shifted to the north side of the newly constructed Colorado Esplanade roadway. The vehicle movements of this phase will be the same as the finished condition after construction is completed. Pedestrians will utilize the newly constructed north side Colorado Esplanade walkway (Figure 5).

Phase 2 –To be opened before Thanksgiving Holiday



Legend

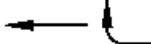
-  Construction area. Closed to public
-  Vehicle movements allowed

Figure 5

Stakeholder Outreach

As part of the Colorado Esplanade public outreach program, residents, businesses and stake-holders will be adequately notified of all changes through message boards, fliers, and in-person meetings. City staff along with the public relations firm hired for this project has prepared graphics and text for public outreach that included: construction notices to approximately 175 stakeholders including many businesses; emails to all City employees; updates through SMconstructs.org, Twitter, and Facebook; and mailing of post cards that include project area maps. These were distributed the week of September 7. Changeable message signs will be installed in the vicinity of the project to give drivers notice of the changes planned for September 14.

Summary

The transition from Phase 1 to Phase 2 will begin on September 14, 2015 and is expected to be completed by November 25, 2015 prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. Completing this transition to Phase 2 will allow the realigned roadway to be opened restoring access to north and southbound vehicles along 2nd Street and Main Street and providing left turn access from westbound Colorado Avenue onto southbound Main Street. At the beginning of Phase 2 the vehicle movements and operations of the Main/2nd/Colorado intersection will mirror the final permanent condition.

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