

KEY PROJECTS UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2018
(Items numbered for reference only & not priority. Does not include all projects.)

1. **Utility Undergrounding** – The City Council will provide direction regarding utility undergrounding projects following the November 6 election. Other undergrounding activities include the pursuit of two undergrounding districts along Coast Highway and Monterey/Virginia to be funded by Rule 20A credits. The City has 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, and will consider additional acquisition of credits. (S. Dupuis, December 31, 2018)
2. **Historic Preservation Ordinance Update** – The City Council held a meeting on September 29, 2018 and provided direction to City staff regarding how to interpret various legal issues associated historic preservation. The City Council directed 1) staff to begin drafting a voluntary Ordinance and roadmap of steps that need to be taken in order to implement a voluntary Ordinance, 2) the Task Force to meet and within three months provide input to staff as to what they would like to see in the voluntary ordinance by way of incentives or other factors, and 3) return to the Council with a draft ordinance and roadmap to implement a voluntary ordinance. It is estimated that staff will return to the City Council as directed in February 2019. (G. Pfof, February 19, 2019)
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. A grant application has been submitted to OCTA to secure funding for ½ of the project’s cost. A concept review of converting Ocean Avenue to a one-way street is scheduled for November 13, 2018 City Council meeting. (S. Dupuis, December 2020)
4. **Village Entrance Project** – Construction of the Village Entrance Project started on September 4, 2018. The 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 has released the final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project and is now proceeding with the design of the project. Staff has submitted letters of concerns to Caltrans Headquarters and California Transportation Commissioner Lucy Dunn and will continue to work on several fronts with Caltrans to address community concerns with the project. 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 January 2019. (G. Pfof, January 22, 2019)

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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 by the City Council, the improvements will not include adding vehicular lanes to the road. An update on the Project Study Report will be provided to the City Council on January 22, 2019. (S. Dupuis, December 31 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 will be completed by the end of 2018, with construction to be completed by December 31, 2021. (S. Dupuis, December 31, 2021)
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 on November 13, 2018. (G. Pfof, November 13, 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 and adoption occurred on October 9, 2018. The Ordinance is required to be approved by the California Coastal Commission. (G. Pfof, October 31, 2019)
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 on January 8, 2019 with approval by the CCC by the end of June 2019. (G. Pfof, January 8, 2019)
12. **Tree Replanting** – City Council awarded the contract for replanting of 30 trees in the downtown area and along Coast Highway on October 23, 2018. 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 \$3.2 million grant application was accepted for work in Laguna Canyon. The work will be completed by March 15, 2022. The City is also applying for a grant to modify fuels along Park Avenue and that application is still pending. (M. Garcia, March 15, 2022).
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. Stantec is preparing conceptual plans for two options to be presented at a visioning presentation to the City Council in early 2019. (C. Johnson/S. Dupuis, December 31, 2020)