



City of Grover Beach

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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Plans for the Improvement of Longbranch Avenue to be Discussed at Public Workshop

“Longbranch Demonstration Project”

The City of Grover Beach has scheduled a public workshop to discuss potential improvements to Longbranch Avenue. The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Multi-Purpose Room at **Grover Beach Elementary School, 365 South 10th Street, Grover Beach**. The City is encouraging residents to attend and provide input on the proposed improvements for Longbranch Avenue, which could eventually extend along Longbranch Avenue from Oak Park Boulevard on the east all the way to 4th Street on the west.

Earlier this year, the City received a \$50,000 grant from the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) to complete a “demonstration” project design for Longbranch Avenue. The intent of the grant was to identify street improvements that, if constructed, would narrow Longbranch Avenue, reduce maintenance costs, and increase pedestrian and bicyclist use of the street. Longbranch Avenue was originally laid out by D.W. Grover in the late 1800s and its width has not changed much in the intervening years. Today, Longbranch Avenue averages 84 feet from curb to curb and is very similar in width to West Grand Avenue, which contains four travel lanes and is a main connector from U.S. Highway 101 to the beach.

Last spring, the City Council retained the Wallace Group of San Luis Obispo to develop concept designs for the Longbranch Avenue improvements. Representatives from Wallace Group, along with City officials, will be on hand Tuesday night to review the recommended improvements with all those who are in attendance. Input from this workshop, along with a report on the recommended improvements, will be forwarded to the Council for final approval in early October 2009. The potential improvements include the construction of sidewalks, paths, bike lanes, crosswalks, and increased planting areas to assist with drainage. It is hoped that the proposed improvements will also be applicable to use in the narrowing of Newport Avenue, another very wide street in Grover Beach.

Anyone interested in learning more information regarding the Longbranch Demonstration Project are encouraged to contact the City Management Office at City Hall at (805) 473-4567.

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