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More sidewalks in Highway 49's future?

Project looking at three miles along busy traffic corridor

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Sidewalks stretching along Highway 49 from Interstate 80 in Auburn to Dry Creek Road are envisioned in a new planning effort.

What is being labeled the Highway 49 Sidewalk Gap Closure Project proposes to construct more than three miles of sidewalks alongside

the busy traffic corridor.

The project will build on the upcoming Caltrans Highway 49 road rehabilitation project to add pedestrian walkway elements to plans being developed by the state to improve traffic flows and safety, Placer County Transportation Planning Agency Senior Planner Aaron Hoyt said.

Hoyt reported to the planning agency board this past week that the goal is to have a project in place that meets state and federal environmental requirements so that the agency can pursue grant

funding.

As part of the effort, staff from the agency, Placer County, city of Auburn and Caltrans conducted a field study in May to identify terrain, right-of-way, utilities and habitat issues that could result in design challenges along Highway 49.

Five segments of the road were considered critical to a future sidewalks project:

The stretch of Highway 49 from the Fulweiler Avenue crossroads to Palm Avenue was examined because of right-of-way and terrain issues

Persimmon Terrace to Marguerite Mine Road is considered a challenge because of terrain and lack of walkable destinations

Wise Canal crossing near Live Oak Lane had issues related to right of way, terrain, utilities and habitat

Dry Creek crossing near Locksley Lane also had terrain and habitat challenges

Shale Ridge road to Dry Creek Road had terrain issues.

About 18,000 feet of sidewalk gaps have been identified as potential locations for new sidewalks along Highway 49.