



CITY of CALABASAS

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT**  
**JUNE 2, 2021**

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**TO:** Members of the Historic Preservation Commission

**FROM:** Tom Bartlett, AICP, City Planner

**SUBJECT:** Report on, and Discussion of, Planned Repairs and Replacements for Old Town Sidewalks, Street Lights, and Related Street Furniture

**RECOMMENDATION:** Discuss the item and receive the report.

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**BACKGROUND:**

Old Town Calabasas, the primary retail shopping area in the City, brings a taste of the old west to modern Calabasas living. Old Town features the historic Leonis Adobe and Museum and a fine selection of shops and restaurants, all within walking distance of the Calabasas Civic Center.

In 1994, City Council adopted the Old Town Calabasas Master Plan and Design Guidelines in order to maintain the historical and cultural values of the City's "downtown", with an intent to maintain a general theme of the "Old West". The guidelines are to be followed and incorporated into future building designs and other construction projects in the area.

Shortly prior to the establishment of the master plan and design guidelines, the City installed boardwalk style sidewalks along Calabasas Road using a type of all-weather polymer slats or decking (the trade name for the product is "Trex"). Also installed were a number of hitching posts, bollards, electrical receptacles (to accommodate temporary strands of decorative lighting), trash cans, landscaping, and street lights. Unfortunately, after close to 30 years, these improvements have reached the end of their useful life, requiring continual maintenance and repair; the sidewalks, in particular, now present an unacceptable liability risk for the City.

## **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

The Old Town Calabasas Sidewalk Replacement project is one of the City's approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects, and its design began last year. The project civil plans are at 90% completion and will be finalized for bid advertisement upon the final review comments from the City. Public Works Department staff expect construction to start later this year.

The project includes the following elements:

1. Sidewalk Replacement.

The existing sidewalk in Old Town Calabasas was installed with Trex composite decking material that has slowly deteriorated over the years. Many of the Trex decking components either broke or are no longer affixed to the underlying joists, becoming potential trip hazards for pedestrians. The City has replaced some segments with concrete over the years. To achieve a more durable, long-standing, and safe sidewalk, the City desires to replace all Trex decking materials with stamped concrete, and replace all existing concrete sidewalk sections as well, to create a uniform surface texture and appearance throughout Old Town Calabasas.

2. Installation of New Street Lights.

The antiquated street lights, with parts that are no longer available in the market (and therefore nearly impossible to maintain), will be replaced with those powered with LEDs. Notwithstanding the use of contemporary high-efficiency and low-cost electrical components, the new street lights will retain the Old West design.

3. Upgrades to Hardscape and Landscaping Features.

New trees will be installed, as well as other landscaping; trash receptacles will be replaced; Deteriorated pedestrian crosswalk pavers will be replaced; and, new benches, fencing, bollards, traffic sign posts, and tree grates will be installed.

During the Commission meeting staff from the Planning Division and from the Public Works Department will present to the Commission members illustrative examples of the project elements described in the preceding narrative.