



City of Santa Barbara Transportation & Circulation Committee *Staff Report*

DATE: February 24, 2022

TO: Transportation and Circulation Committee Members

FROM: Behdad Gharagozli, Supervising Transportation Engineer

SUBJECT: 400 Block of Anacapa Street – Conversion to Two-Way Traffic

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Transportation and Circulation Committee receive a report on converting the 400 block of Anacapa Street to a two-way street, and recommend to City Council that the 400 block of Anacapa Street be converted to a two-way street.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the City's pavement maintenance program, the 400 block of Anacapa Street is scheduled to be repaved this summer. This presents Traffic Engineering staff with an opportunity to evaluate the existing roadway conditions in the area and present recommendations to address any identified collision patterns. In this case, State Street has previously been identified as an area with a pattern of both pedestrian and bicycle involved collisions, particularly near the 300 and 400 blocks of State Street.

One of the measures that can address these types of collisions is to reduce the amount of vehicular traffic that conflicts with highly used pedestrian crossings. In this case, given that the State/Gutierrez and State/Haley intersections each have thousands of pedestrian crossings each day, staff evaluated the traffic circulation in the area and identified a change to the 400 block of Anacapa Street that would reduce the total number of vehicular vs pedestrian conflicts at these locations.

Anacapa Street, between Haley Street and Gutierrez Street, is currently a one-way southbound roadway. As a result, motorists on Anacapa Street (south of Haley Street) and Gutierrez Street (between Santa Barbara Street and Anacapa Street) intending to travel east, north, or onto the US-101 southbound freeway are forced to circulate west on Gutierrez Street, north on State Street, and then east on Haley Street. While the one-way nature of Anacapa Street, north of Haley Street, is an element of citywide circulation, the segment south of Haley Street can create an inconvenience to residents and businesses in the area.

An alternative to the current one-way configuration of Anacapa Street, south of Haley Street, is to convert the roadway into a two-way street. This would improve traffic circulation in the

area and divert some vehicular traffic away from the highly used pedestrian crossings on State Street.

DISCUSSION:

Improved Local Access and Reduced Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

A benefit of the two-way configuration is improved local access for residents and businesses in the area. By providing a more direct route for motorists to travel east/north, traffic originating from these blocks would no longer need to circulate around three city blocks to travel east. The result of this more efficient circulation option is reduced travel times and VMT. The proposed two-way configuration of Anacapa Street would result in, on average, a 1-2 minute reduction in travel time and 114 fewer VMT per day.

In addition to improved circulation during normal operations, the two-way street would also provide an alternative route when there is a special event or incident restricting traffic flow at the State Street and Gutierrez Street intersection.

See **Attachment 1** for an illustration of the existing circulation vs the alternative circulation with a two-way 400 block of Anacapa Street.

Pedestrian Safety on State Street

The proposed two-way configuration would improve pedestrian safety along State Street, with its intersections of Gutierrez Street and Haley Street. These intersections have thousands of pedestrian crossings each day, which can result in increased delays and conflicts with turning traffic. By providing the alternate route along the proposed two-way 400 block of Anacapa Street, drivers intending to travel east/north would not be forced through these two intersections, thereby reducing the total number of conflict points between pedestrians and vehicles.

Traffic Forecast

Staff performed traffic counts in the area to determine how many additional trips would be expected on the 400 block of Anacapa Street with the alternative two-way configuration. Based on those traffic counts, as well as field observations, it is projected that approximately 40% of vehicular trips originating from the study area intend to travel east and would use the proposed northbound direction of Anacapa. This would result in approximately 600 additional daily vehicular trips on the 400 block of Anacapa Street as summarized below:

- During the peak hour, about 60 northbound trips would be expected, or approximately one vehicle per minute.
- During off-peak hours of the day, on average, there would be one northbound vehicle every two minutes.

Changes Needed to Accommodate Two-Way Traffic

To accommodate two-way traffic on the 400 block of Anacapa Street, traffic signal modifications would be required at the Anacapa Street and Haley Street intersection, as well as changes to signs and markings on the 400 block.

Because the City plans to resurface the 400 block of Anacapa Street this summer as part of the annual pavement maintenance program, these proposed changes to Anacapa Street would be implemented concurrently with that program.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

On February 9, 2022, the City held an online public outreach meeting to inform residents and business owners in the area of the proposed change. Notices for the meeting were sent to addresses on the 300 and 400 blocks of Anacapa Street, as well as the 100 block of east Gutierrez Street. Additionally, poster boards were placed on the street to inform anyone not included in the mailed notices.

The feedback received to date has been mixed between those opposed to the two-way conversion and those in favor. The primary concern brought up at the meeting was by some of the residents of the 400 block regarding the increased traffic on the street.

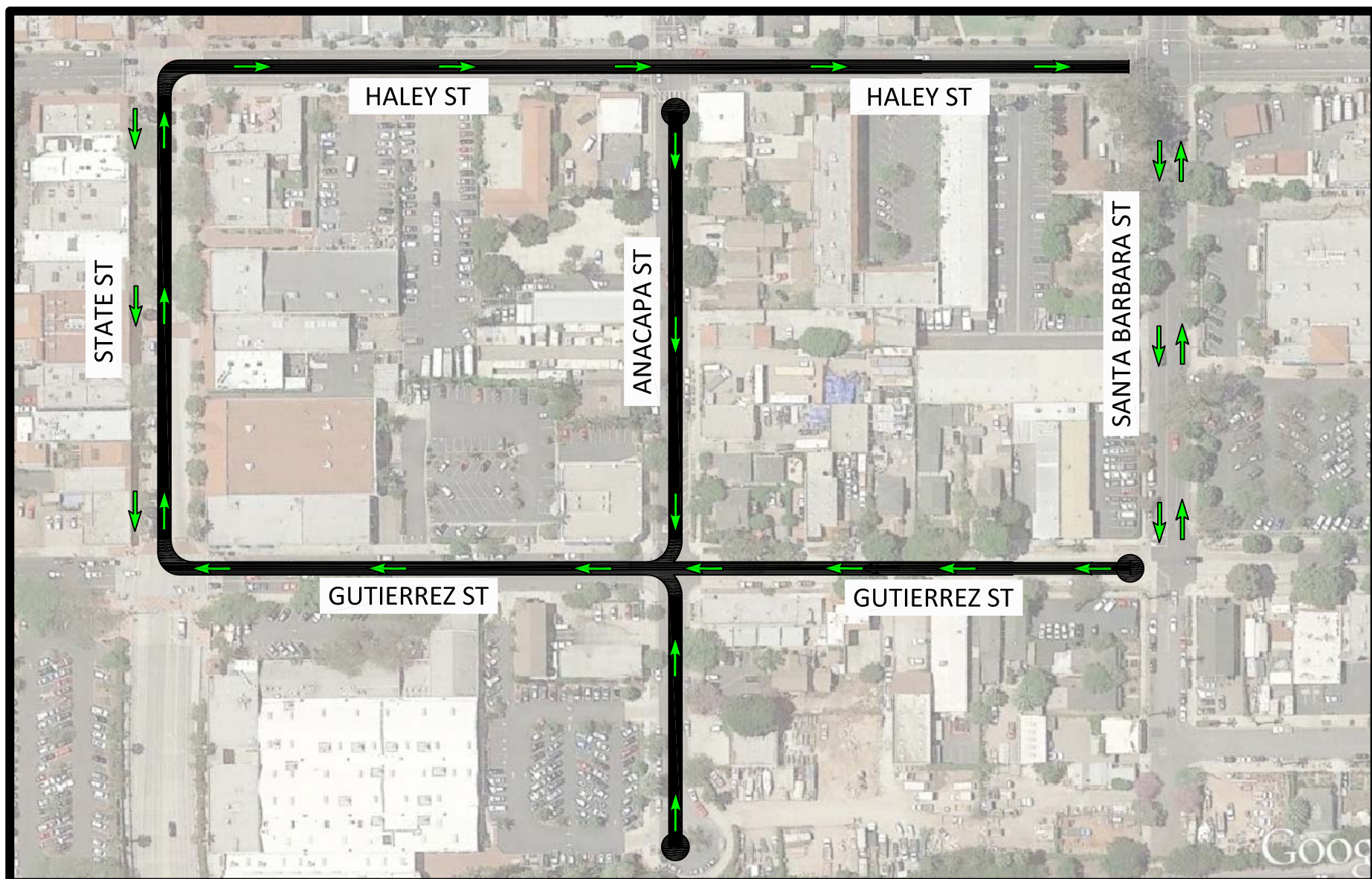
NEXT STEPS:

Conversion of streets from one-way to two-way, or two-way to one-way, requires approval by City Council. Staff will present the results of the public feedback and Transportation Circulation Committee to the Ordinance Committee this spring, followed by a final recommendation to the City Council. Construction of the proposed changes would likely begin this summer/fall.

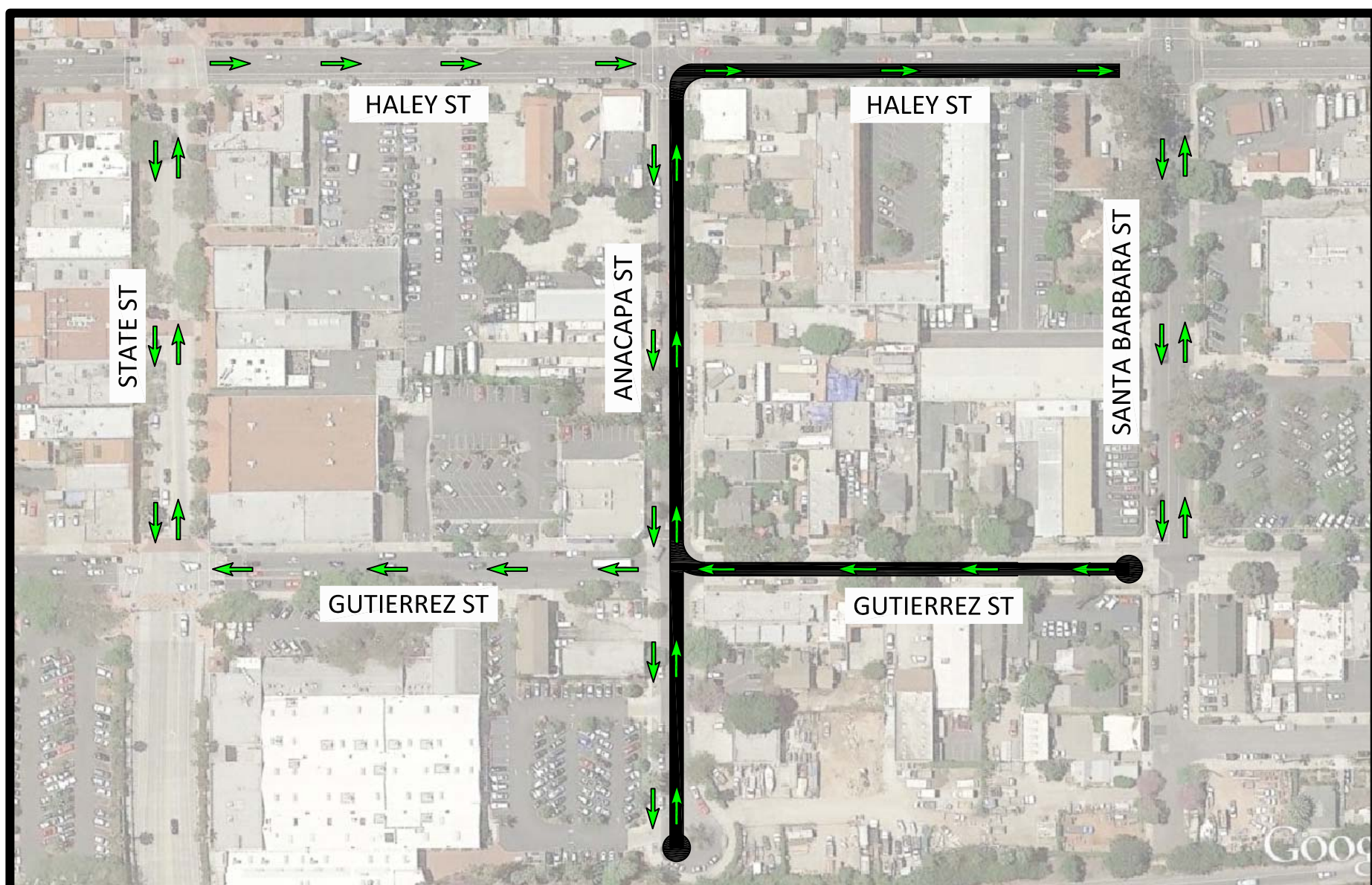
ATTACHMENT: Local Circulation Comparison Between Existing One-Way and Alternative Two-Way Configuration of 400 Anacapa

ATTACHMENT #1

Local Circulation Comparison Between Existing One-Way and Alternative Two-Way Configuration of 400 Anacapa



1 EXISTING CONFIGURATION (ANACAPA ONE-WAY)



2 ALTERNATIVE CONFIGURATION (ANACAPA TWO-WAY STREET)

