

Meetings look at improving traffic flows, safety in town

By Nick Baptista / The Valley Springs News / December 7, 2018

The first of several meetings to gather public input with the goal of producing a plan to address transportation issues in Valley Springs was held Monday evening.

A nearly \$200,000 transportation planning grant was obtained to develop the plan, which will be used to seek funding for future transportation projects in downtown Valley Springs, according to District 1 Supervisor Gary Tofanelli.

The project area includes all downtown Valley Springs streets, State Route 12 to Lime Creek Road and State Route 26 to Hogan Dam Road.

A major focus of the grant and future projects is to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety in the vicinity of Valley Springs Elementary School, said Tofanelli. His district includes downtown Valley Springs.

When completed, the Valley Springs Town Center Connectivity Plan will provide a framework, or what Tofanelli called a “shovel ready plan” eligible for funding from state and federal sources. In addition, the plan will guide Caltrans when it makes improvements along State Routes 12 and 26 in the Valley Springs area.

One source to tap is “Safe Route to Schools” funding, Tofanelli said.

Eventual infrastructure improvements could also include new sidewalks and the undergrounding of utilities. Money is already set aside for underground utilities at no cost to businesses and residents.

Tofanelli anticipated more public meetings on the subject would be announced at the beginning of next year.

The county, Calaveras Council of Governments and Caltrans are working in partnership on developing the Valley Springs Town Center Connectivity Plan.

For more information on the effort, visit www.valleyspringstowncenter.com