

MEASURE E  
CITY ATTORNEY'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS

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The City Council of the [City of Half Moon Bay] has placed Measure E, the "Main Street Bridge Safety and Accessibility Act" on the June 3, 2014 ballot along with a competing measure, Measure F, the "Main Street Bridge Preservation Act." The measures offer competing visions for the future of the bridge.

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Measure E would establish as official City policy with respect to any bridge repair or replacement project:

- A. To address both structural and functional safety deficiencies, including but not limited to:
  - 1. Roadway alignment and width to accommodate bicycle lanes and meet current Caltrans design safety standards;
  - 2. Width and design of walkways to fully comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act;
  
- B. To pursue the option that is most [cost-effective] for local taxpayers, by minimizing expenditure of general fund revenue and maximizing the use of available grant funds;
  
- C. To construct the project in a manner that, to the maximum extent practicable:
  - 1. Maintains at least one lane of vehicular traffic during construction;
  - 2. Avoids the peak tourist season (July through October); and
  - 3. Minimizes noise, dust, vibrations and other such construction related impacts outside of the project area.

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Caltrans has given the bridge a safety rating of 24 on a scale of 1-100 under its bridge rating system. It is considered "functionally deficient" because it is narrow by current highway safety standards, lacks shoulders or bike lanes, and is poorly aligned with Main Street at the north end. It is also considered "structurally deficient," with large cracks, separated concrete and corroded metal support brackets all plainly visible from below. In 2011, the City won a federal Highway Bridge Project (HBP) grant that will cover 88% of the cost of rehabilitation or replacement, but grant guidelines specify that funds be used to address both structural and functional deficiencies, and that the resulting structure achieve a safety rating of 80 or above. Whether the bridge is repaired or replaced, fixing the bridge's functional issues would involve building wider lanes and walkways and improving the alignment, and hence, "enlarging" the structure.

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Measure F, the "Main Street Bridge Preservation Act," would prohibit [Half Moon Bay] from demolishing or enlarging the Main Street Bridge (including widening the vehicle lanes and pedestrian paths for ADA compliance) unless approved by the voters at another, subsequent election.

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Measures E and F are self-cancelling, meaning if both are approved by simple majority (more than 50%) then only the one receiving the higher number of votes will take effect. If Measure E takes effect, then addressing the bridge's functional deficiencies and maximizing the use of available grant funding for that purpose will be established by the voters as the "official policy" of the City of Half Moon Bay.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure E. If you desire a copy of the ordinance, please call the City Clerk's office at 650-726-8271 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

DATED: March 24, 2014

/s/  
ANTHONY P. CONDOTTI  
City Attorney  
City of Half Moon Bay

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