

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

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El Sobrante: Ceremony will dedicate improvements on San Pablo Dam Road

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EL SOBRANTE -- A revamped downtown streetscape, years in the works, will be unveiled Wednesday, including wider sidewalks, new bus benches, landscaping and historical signage that businesses hope attract more visitors to the area.

The improvements cover about a 3/4-mile segment of San Pablo Dam Road between Appian Way and El Portal Drive and is the culmination of four years of planning. Four bus stops will also be relocated to improve transit access.

"The whole idea is to make downtown pedestrian friendly and encourage more people to use the downtown," said Supervisor John Gioia.

The \$2.3 million project was funded by Measure J, a county transportation tax approved by voters in 2004, and local county road maintenance funds. Planning for downtown's face-lift started in 2011 and construction began a year ago.

The public is invited to a community celebration, including a ribbon cutting, which will be held in the Mechanics Bank parking lot at 3884 San Pablo Dam Road from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

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