

# *Creating a Safe, Vibrant, and Walkable Downtown*

## *Frequently Asked Questions and Answers About “Old Red”*

*As of 10/16/11*

### **Q: What’s the issue?**

Over the past 15 years, the City of Cotati and local citizen volunteers have worked together to create a vision to make our Downtown safer, more vibrant, and walkable. Following extensive community and citizen input, the City Council adopted a vision for achieving this in the Downtown Specific Plan. Now, we are ready to implement the vision. As one component of this, improvements will be necessary to Old Redwood Highway.

### **Q: Has the community identified its priorities?**

A: Yes. After extensive community engagement, a number of community concerns, perspectives and ideas were identified, which have been considered in planning the Old Redwood Highway Project. Three top community priorities are to 1) *improve safety and access* for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists by reducing traffic speed, 2) ensure a cost effective project that fully utilizes the \$1.1 Million in competitive federal grants that have been awarded to Cotati, and 3) minimize the amount of land needed for the project and corresponding impacts to our local, existing businesses.

### **Q: What are the current options for improving Old Redwood Highway?**

A: After a comprehensive review of all potential options, two alternatives are currently being considered: The **Village Main Street**, which would convert Old Redwood Highway into a safer, two lane roadway; OR **City Boulevard**, a four lane option with traditional traffic patterns. City Boulevard would require more land for right-of-ways, make pedestrian crossing times longer, and would be the more expensive of the two options. The Village Main Street vision significantly improves motorist, bicyclist, and pedestrian safety and access while requiring very little property from neighboring businesses. Village Main Street would also cost 25% less to build.

### **Q: Do you have a comparison of the two alternatives?**

A: Yes. A summary comparison is posted on the City website.

### **Q:What’s the process for review of this project?**

A: The community has an opportunity to determine the character of downtown Cotati for our life time. Due to the importance of the decision, the City is continuing the public input process at Design Review Committee, Planning Commission and City Council. As the packets become available before the meetings, they will be posted on the City website.

### **Q: Where can I get more information?**

A: For more information please visit [www.cotati.ca.us.com](http://www.cotati.ca.us.com) or call Tammy Taylor 707.665.3622.