



PHOTO BY AMY SYLVESTRI

San Leandro Boulevard will be repaved with bike lanes and a new median.

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San Leandro Boulevard will be getting a facelift in the coming months.

Last week, the City Council approved a \$4.8 million makeover for the street, to beautify it and make it more bike and pedestrian-friendly.

The biggest change will be eliminating one lane of traffic in each direction in order to create bike lanes and pedestrian thoroughfares, according to a staff report by the city's engineering and transportation department.

Ornamental streetlights will be installed, trees will be planted in the center median, and planters will be placed on the sidewalks.

A new traffic signal will be installed at the intersection of Parrot Street and San Leandro Boulevard, and handicap accessibility upgrades will be made to the crossings of San Leandro Boulevard at Davis Street and West Juana Avenue, and at the BART station entrance.

The street itself will be resurfaced with new asphalt and decorative crosswalks.

This plan for revamping San Leandro Boulevard has been in the works since 2007, when the city first approved the Transit Oriented Development strategy and the city has been looking for funding sources since, according to Mayor Stephen Cassidy.

The project is being funded through county and federal grants and no money from the city's general fund is being used. Construction is expected to start in early 2013.