



Gateway
to the
Pinnacles

SOLEDAD

CALIFORNIA

December 18, 2025

The Honorable Judge Stephanie E. Hulsey
Judge of the Superior Court c/o Office of the County Counsel
Attention: Sandra Ontiveros 168 W. Alisal Street, 3rd Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

RE: Response to 2024-2025 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Final Report – Road Safety in Monterey County: Where to Report a Problem”

Dear Judge Hulsey:

This letter is the City of Soledad’s response to the Finding F6 and Recommendation R6 in the 2024-2025 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Final Report entitled “Road Safety in Monterey County: Where to Report a Problem.” In the Final Report, the Civil Grand Jury made a total of nine Findings and eight Recommendations, with one Recommendation specific to the City of Soledad (City). As requested by the Civil Grand Jury, the City respectfully submits the following responses to the Findings and Recommendations identified for a response in the Final Report:

Although the City of Soledad was referenced only briefly, a response to Finding F6 and Recommendation R6 is required. Follow-up emails from Sandra Ontiveros were sent to the City Council on October 31 and December 8, 2025; however, they were not received by the City Manager or the Public Works Director. As a result, staff was not aware that a response was required, and the City’s reply is being submitted after the standard 90-day period. The City is now providing the necessary follow-up.

Much of the CGJ report addresses reporting challenges in unincorporated Monterey County. However, one Finding (F6) and one Recommendation (R6) relate to the City of Soledad:

- **Finding F6:** The availability of the Salinas, Soledad, and Monterey County uConnect mobile apps is largely unknown to the public, rendering them of limited use.
- **Recommendation R6:** Monterey County and the cities of Salinas and Soledad should promote their service request apps by prominently displaying information regarding their availability on Public Works webpages, other relevant webpages, and through social media by December 31, 2025.

The City respectfully disagrees with both the Finding and Recommendation. The CGJ evaluation appears to equate Soledad—a compact, rural community—with the City of Salinas and unincorporated Monterey County, which are significantly larger and more geographically dispersed. With approximately 20,000 residents (excluding the state correctional facility) and a footprint of just 2.2 square miles, Soledad residents are well aware of city boundaries, maintain close relationships with City employees and elected officials, and routinely report issues through direct communication rather than digital applications. Furthermore, the City adopted a comprehensive Strategic Plan in October 2025 that provides a robust framework for improving roadway safety through multiple strategies beyond digital reporting platforms.

While the City did operate a reporting app at the time of the CGJ investigation, Soledad has since transitioned away from that system. The City previously used the GoGov mobile application (marketed as the “It’s Happening in Soledad” app) and its associated customer response module (CRM). Despite an investment of approximately \$12,000 and active promotion through social media, public use remained low, generating fewer than 100 complaints. In light of severe budget constraints for FY 2025–26, the City discontinued the GoGov platform and shifted to existing Public Works and Code Enforcement systems for receiving and tracking complaints. Residents can now report roadway concerns through a prominent “Report an Issue” button on the City’s homepage, an approach that has been used 55 times this year.

Roadway safety operations in Soledad also differ significantly from those in larger jurisdictions. Because the City is only 2.2 square miles, Public Works staff and police officers drive every city street daily and proactively identify maintenance needs or safety issues. The City has also invested heavily in community engagement, including two full-time Community Engagement staff who work closely with residents. As a result, community members routinely bring concerns directly to Public Works, and the City responds quickly to issues such as problematic intersections, faded striping, or local speeding concerns.

This proactive, relationship-based approach has enabled major advancements in transportation safety. The City partnered with Ecology Action and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) to develop and adopt a Safe Routes to Schools Plan and is working on submitting an Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant application to implement the plan’s estimated \$30 million in improvements. The City has also partnered with TAMC to participate in the development of a South Monterey County Vision Zero Plan. Additionally, the City continues to pursue and implement safety upgrades through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), improving school intersections identified by residents and students at Soledad High School.

Community engagement remains central to Soledad’s roadway safety strategy. The Soledad Youth Council recently launched a youth-led roadway assessment and public education

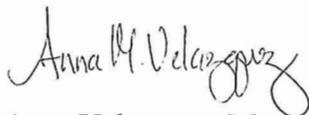
initiative, further demonstrating the community's commitment to a culture of safety. Their efforts support broader City goals focused on awareness, behavior change, and resident participation, approaches that often yield deeper and more lasting impacts than mobile-app reporting tools alone.

Road safety is a major priority in the City's recently adopted 100-page Strategic Plan (see attached Mobility Chapter), which dedicates 13 pages to mobility, with a strong emphasis on safety. One of the key objectives is to "launch public awareness and education campaigns" that promote responsible driving, safe pedestrian and bicyclist behavior, and shared roadway use. Planned initiatives include multilingual materials, speed and distracted-driving campaigns, school and business partnerships, and safety messaging distributed through newsletters, utility bills, and digital platforms.

While the City agrees that accessible reporting tools are valuable and continues to maintain clearly visible reporting options on its website, Soledad emphasizes that effective roadway safety requires a comprehensive, proactive, and community-centered approach. This includes daily field monitoring, public education, long-range planning, and sustained collaboration with residents. The City continues to highlight roadway safety topics through newsletters and social media, including recent messaging on safe driving during rainy weather. In addition, the City has begun promoting the "Report an Issue" platform on social media.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Civil Grand Jury's Report and explain how the City is enhancing roadway safety through community engagement.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna Velazquez, Mayor of Soledad

Attachments:

Resolution

City of Soledad Website Homepage

Soledad Strategic Plan Mobility Chapter

City of Soledad Social Media Posts

RESOLUTION NO. 6315

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLEDAD AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A LETTER RESPONDING TO 2024-2025 MONTEREY COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT TITLED “ROAD SAFETY IN MONTEREY COUNTY: WHERE TO REPORT A PROBLEM”

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2025, the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) issued its final report titled “*Road Safety in Monterey County: Where to Report a Problem*”; and

WHEREAS, the CGJ found that residents throughout Monterey County often face challenges in determining where to report concerns regarding traffic safety, road maintenance, and road development projects; and

WHEREAS, the CGJ requested a response from the City of Soledad (City) to Finding F6 and Recommendation R6, which recommend increased promotion of the City’s former mobile reporting application; and

WHEREAS, the City has since discontinued the mobile app due to low public usage and budget constraints, and now utilizes a website-based “Report an Issue” platform for roadway and maintenance reporting; and

WHEREAS, the City respectfully disagrees with the Finding and Recommendation, as the CGJ analysis assumes comparable conditions between Soledad—a compact, rural community—and the significantly larger and more geographically dispersed jurisdictions of Salinas and unincorporated Monterey County; and

WHEREAS, because of Soledad’s small geographic area and strong community relationships, residents frequently report issues directly to City staff, and Public Works personnel proactively identify roadway concerns through daily field observations; and

WHEREAS, the City continues to prioritize roadway safety through comprehensive strategies such as the Safe Routes to Schools Plan, Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) projects, robust community engagement, and new public education initiatives outlined in the City’s recently adopted Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, while the City agrees that accessible reporting tools are important, it also emphasizes that effective roadway safety requires proactive operations, community partnerships, and sustained public outreach; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the City’s disagreement with the Finding and Recommendation, the City has enhanced the visibility of its “Report an Issue” tool on the City website and initiated promotion of the platform through social media.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Soledad that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign a letter responding to the 2024-2025 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Final Report titled “Road Safety in Monterey County: Where to Report a Problem.”

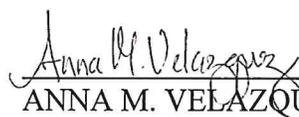
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Soledad at a regular meeting duly held on the 17th day of December 2025 by the following vote:

AYES, and in favor thereof, Councilmembers: Bañuelos, Ansaldo-Sánchez, Caldera, Cabrera, Velazquez

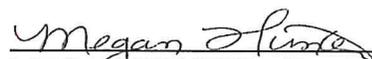
NOES, Councilmembers: None

ABSENT, Councilmembers: None

ABSTAIN, Councilmembers: None


ANNA M. VELAZQUEZ, Mayor

ATTEST:


MEGAN HUNTER, City Clerk



1930 Veterans Hwy #12-425 (925) 456-4468
Islandia, NY 11749 Billing@GOGovApps.com

Bill To:

Steven Andranigian
Soledad City, CA
248 Main Street
Soledad, CA 93960

Invoice

Invoice #:	24-147
Inv. Date:	04/01/2024
Due Date:	05/31/2024
PO / Ref #:	
License Period:	6/1/2024 – 5/31/2025

GOGov EIN # **83-2833905** • Download our W9 - <https://GOGovApps.com/W9>

Description	Service Start	Qty Months	Amount
GORquest Citizen Request Management (CRM) subscription	06/01/2024	12	12,000.00
Total			12,000.00
BALANCE DUE			\$12,000.00



OUR CITY
MORE ABOUT US

BUSINESS
WORK WITH US

RESIDENTS
GET USEFUL INFO

PAYMENTS
UTILITY AND FEES

REPORT AN ISSUE
OR A SUGGESTION

QUICK LINKS:

MUNICIPAL CODE

EMPLOYEE DIRECTORY

RFQS / RFPs / BIDS

EVENTS

JOBS

EMERGENCY



Sharing Holiday Cheer



Utility
Billing



Public
Meetings



Building
Permits



City
Council



Jobs and
Employment



Parks and
Recreation



ADUs



Police
Department



Business
License



City
Budget



Public
Records
Request



RFQs/RFPs
and Bids



Emergency



Public
Works

Sign up for our monthly newsletter

Your Email Address

Subscribe

5 – Mobility

We have high-quality road and public transit systems that help prevent traffic fatalities and severe injuries, minimize traffic congestion, and allow convenient access to daily destinations. We are proud of our safe, walkable, accessible, and bikeable neighborhoods that promote non-automobile modes of transportation.

5.1 - Goal: Promote Active Transportation and Pedestrian Safety

Promote safe, convenient, and connected options for walking and biking by developing new Active Transportation Program (ATP) corridors and infrastructure.

5.1.1 – Upgrade key transportation corridors near schools, parks, and transit stops to enhance safety, accessibility and comfort for pedestrians and cyclists.

Responsible Department: Engineering / Planning

Priority: **Urgent**

- Collaborate with TAMC to resubmit the Soledad Safe Routes to School Project (SSRTS) for Active Transportation Program (ATP) implementation funding through Caltrans and other applicable funding sources.
- Apply for funding for smaller ATP projects in the SSRTS for implementation.
- Design improvements to the Front Street underpass based on the pilot project, including reconstructed sidewalks, ADA accessibility, bike lanes, and improved light and drainage.
- Implement the West Street Complete Street Project (Road Diet), including a lane reduction, improved crossings, and additional bike and pedestrian amenities.
 - o Complete construction plans and bidding package.
 - o Select a qualified contractor to build the improvements and initiate construction.
 - o Evaluate traffic speeds, collision data, and community feedback before and after implementation.

5.1.2 - Develop safe and accessible bicycle infrastructure citywide.

Expand the city's bikeway network to provide safe, continuous, and convenient routes for all users.

Responsible Department: Public Works

Priority: **Semi Urgent**

- Implement a phased buildout of Class II and Class III bike lanes across neighborhoods.
- Install Class IV protected bike lanes along key arterials with high vehicle volumes.
- Add bike signage, sharrows, and wayfinding along major and secondary roads.
- Maintain real-time online maps and printed materials for bike routes and facilities.
- Replace damaged or install new bike racks at key downtown hubs, parks, and schools.

- Partner with regional transit agencies and nonprofits to launch bike rental or bike-share programs.

5.1.3 – Launch education and incentive programs to promote active transportation, particularly walking and biking.

Responsible Department: Parks and Recreation/Public Works

Priority: **Semi Urgent**

- Partner with the Soledad Unified School District to promote active transportation to school as outlined in the Safe Routes to School Plan:
 - o Host pop-up bike repair clinics, student-led maintenance days, and community ride events.
 - o Launch “Walk and Roll to School” and “Walk to Work” campaigns.
 - o Launch education campaigns promoting walking, biking, and transit use among students
 - o Engage youth to create videos, murals, and posters near school sites to encourage walking or biking to school.
 - o Pilot a walking school bus or enhanced crossing guard program at selected school sites to promote safe, active commuting for students.
 - o Hold school-based bike safety education and group ride events.
- Provide helmet giveaways and lighting kits to improve student cyclist safety.
- Expand community bike donation drives to support low-income riders.
- Support walking and wellness through community partnerships:
 - o Launch a citywide walking campaign with branded signage, maps, and neighborhood loops.
 - o Partner with health organizations to link walking paths with wellness check-in stations
 - o Incorporate walking goals into community events, step challenges, or Blue Zones promotion.
 - o Create scenic walking trails with rest stops, historical signage, and nature features
 - o Celebrate local 'Walk to Work' and 'Walk to School' days through city promotion
- Monitor and analyze program participation to guide and improve future active transportation education initiatives.

5.2 – Goal: Advance Vision Zero by Implementing the Safe Routes to School Plan and Other Safety Improvements

Achieve zero traffic-related fatalities and severe injuries through data-driven design, education, enforcement, and collaboration. Improve safety for all users—especially pedestrians, cyclists, students, and seniors—across Soledad’s transportation network.

5.2.1 – Implement the Safe Routes to School Plan

Enhance the safety, accessibility, and comfort of routes to and from schools through coordinated infrastructure and education efforts.

Responsible Departments: Engineering / Soledad Unified School District / Community Engagement

Priority: **Urgent**

- Deliver Funded Projects through the Safe Routes to School Program including:
 - o Pedestrian improvements at Orchard Ln & Gabilan Dr (Jack Francioni ES).
 - o Intersection improvements at Main St & Gabilan Dr (Pinnacles HS).
 - o Pedestrian upgrades at Benito St & Gabilan St (Soledad HS).
 - o Sidewalk and safety enhancements on Orchard Ln (San Vicente ES).
- Align curb colors, loading zones, and crosswalks with updated circulation and campus access plans.
- Adopt citywide school zone safety standards (speed limits, signage, and crossing treatments) consistent with state law.
- Launch a Back-to-School Safety Campaign via newsletters, social media, and city channels.
- Host annual joint city–school traffic safety planning sessions.
- Engage students in safety awareness through youth-designed videos, posters, and murals near school sites.

5.2.2 – Improve school access and drop-off zone safety

Reduce traffic congestion and conflicts near schools by improving circulation, signage, and visibility.

Responsible Departments: Engineering / Soledad Unified School District

Priority: **Semi Urgent**

- Assess and redesign school drop-off loops to reduce bottlenecks and improve pedestrian safety.
- Integrate parent and guardian orientation modules on safe drop-off/pick-up practices.
- Restripe and add directional arrows to clarify one-way flow and entry/exit points.
- Install stop signs, cones, and crossing supervision during peak hours.
- Engage with the School District to explore adjustments to school start times in areas where traffic impacts are significant.

- Ensure reflective, multilingual, and ADA-compliant signage at all school driveways, including no-U-turn and directional signs.
- Evaluate signage effectiveness through field observation and community feedback.

5.2.3 – Enhance citywide pedestrian safety infrastructure.

Reduce pedestrian and cyclist injuries by improving infrastructure, visibility, and installing traffic-calming features citywide.

Key Implementation Programs: HSIP 10 (Highway Safety Improvement Program), Safe Routes to School, Vision Zero

Responsible Departments: Police Department / Engineering

Priority: **Urgent**

- Install speed bumps, flashing beacons, and pedestrian signage in high-traffic and school zones.
- Repaint and refresh crosswalks, school zones, and road markings annually.
- Integrate Class II or III bike lanes where feasible to promote safe multimodal travel.
- Upgrade streetlights and pedestrian-scale lighting in priority corridors and intersections.
- Evaluate and install curb extensions, raised medians, or pedestrian refuges to slow vehicle speeds.
- Develop a citywide walkability map to prioritize sidewalk and ADA upgrades.
- Conduct pedestrian safety audits around schools, parks, and civic buildings to identify crossing and lighting gaps.
- Install tactile paving, ADA ramps, and accessible push-button signals at major intersections.
- Promote community participation through events like “Walk to School Week” and neighborhood walking events.

5.2.4 – Strengthen traffic enforcement and speed management.

Reduce speed-related and distraction-related crashes through data-driven enforcement and technology.

Responsible Department: Police Department

Priority: **Urgent**

- Conduct targeted enforcement in school zones and high-collision corridors.
- Deploy mobile and fixed radar feedback signs to encourage compliance.
- Publish an annual enforcement impact report tracking violations, speed trends, and safety outcomes.
- Use collision and citation data to inform enforcement priorities and community outreach.

5.2.5 – Launch public awareness and education campaigns.

Foster a culture of safety and shared responsibility among drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.

Responsible Department: Police Department / Community Engagement

Priority: **Urgent**

- Launch a citywide campaign on speeding, distracted driving, and pedestrian safety using posters, yard signs, digital content, and social media.
- Distribute driver safety tips via utility bills, newsletters, and city accounts.
- Partner with schools, youth groups, and businesses to expand outreach and reinforce safe driving messages.
- Develop multilingual educational materials to ensure accessibility for all residents.

5.2.6 – Pursue funding and partnerships for Vision Zero implementation.

Secure sustainable funding and partnerships to implement high-impact safety projects.

Responsible Departments: Engineering / Police Department

Priority: **Urgent**

- Develop a prioritized list of shovel-ready projects with cost estimates and safety impact metrics.
- Bundle small-scale projects into competitive grant applications to maximize funding potential.
- Host annual grant coordination workshops among engineering, planning, and police staff.
- Incorporate crash data, community input, and equity considerations into all safety funding proposals.
- Pursue collaboration with regional agencies (TAMC, Caltrans, Blue Zones) to align Vision Zero goals and leverage resources.

5.3 - Goal: Enhance Public Transit, Senior Mobility, and Regional Connectivity (Regional)

Improve access, safety, and convenience for residents, seniors, workers, and visitors through coordinated regional transit, micro-mobility, and infrastructure investments. Strengthen partnerships with regional agencies and neighboring cities to create an equitable and connected transportation network.

5.3.1 – Strengthen local transit services and mobility options for seniors and underserved residents.

Ensure equitable, reliable, and accessible transit options that meet the mobility needs of all Soledad residents, particularly seniors, farmworkers, and underserved populations.

Responsible Departments: Engineering / Transit Partnerships / Community Engagement

Priority: **Semi Urgent**

- Partner with Monterey–Salinas Transit (MST) to expand in-town service frequency and update routes based on ridership data and community input.
- Coordinate with MST to ensure all bus stops feature adequate lighting, seating, shelter, and ADA-compliant access.
- Develop micro-transit or neighborhood shuttle pilot programs with flexible, on-demand scheduling to improve first/last-mile connectivity.
- Produce and distribute a multilingual transit access map highlighting routes, stops, and service options for underserved residents.
- Explore partnerships to offer subsidized ride-share or voucher programs (Uber/Lyft) for essential medical, employment, and educational trips.
- Host regular community feedback forums and online surveys to assess transit satisfaction and identify unmet needs.
- Expand the Parks & Recreation Travel Program for Seniors, offering affordable local and regional excursions.
- Partner with local organizations, clinics, and agricultural employers to coordinate transportation services for seniors and farmworkers, including extended-hour routes for H-2A workers.
- Establish a Transportation Liaison position to assist seniors, non-English speakers, and agricultural workers in navigating transit options.
- Collaborate with health and wellness organizations to align medical appointment shuttles with existing transit schedules.

5.3.2 – Improve tourism and regional transit connectivity

Support economic development and sustainable tourism by enhancing transit connections between Soledad, regional attractions, and neighboring cities.

Responsible Departments: Transit Partnerships / Community Engagement / Community Development/National Park Service

Priority: **Long Term**

- Partner with Pinnacles National Park, MST, and the City of Hollister to pilot a regional shuttle service connecting Downtown Soledad, Pinnacles National Park, and major visitor destinations.
- Promote Soledad as the southern gateway to Pinnacles National Park through marketing and MST route branding.
- Collaborate with local hotels, wineries, and tourism operators to develop bundled lodging + transit experiences
- Seek regional and inter-jurisdictional grants to fund tourism-related shuttle infrastructure and park-and-ride facilities.
- Coordinate with Monterey County, Hollister, and Caltrans District 5 on long-term tourism mobility strategies.

5.3.3 – Modernize Highway 101 Corridor and Gateway Infrastructure

Enhance the safety, function, and aesthetics of Highway 101 interchanges and corridors serving Soledad’s community and regional economy.

Responsible Departments: City Manager / Planning / Engineering

Priority: **Long Term**

- Collaborate with Caltrans to design and implement safety upgrades to Highway 101 on- and off-ramps, focusing on Front Street and city gateway areas.
- Improve lighting, signage, lane striping, and visibility to enhance driver awareness and pedestrian safety near ramps.
- Coordinate ramp and interchange design with city pedestrian and bicycle network improvements to ensure seamless connectivity.
- Conduct public outreach to engage residents and nearby businesses on proposed ramp improvement designs.
- Integrate future transit and commercial corridor growth into long-term corridor planning.

5.3.4 – Collaborate on regional multi-use trails and active transportation networks.

Expand regional connectivity and recreation opportunities by linking Soledad’s trail system to neighboring cities and regional routes.

Responsible Departments: Engineering / Planning

Priority: **Long Term**

- Partner with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) to develop a regional trail and bikeway plan connecting Soledad, Gonzales, and Greenfield.
- Collaborate with TAMC and Monterey County to plan and design a segment of the Salinas River Trail through the Soledad area.
- Work with the County and TAMC to evaluate a trail connection from the old landfill site into town, integrating it with city park and bike networks.
- Ensure trail and bikeway connections link key destinations—schools, parks, neighborhoods, and commercial areas.
- Coordinate with regional partners and funding agencies to align trail alignments and pursue joint grant applications for design and construction.

5.4 - Goal: Improve Traffic Management, Road Safety, and Infrastructure

Enhance roadway efficiency, safety, and durability through data-driven congestion management, proactive maintenance, and the integration of smart mobility technology. Ensure Soledad’s transportation network supports growth, accessibility, and long-term sustainability.

5.4.1 – Redesign congested corridors and modernize traffic control systems.

Reduce congestion and improve safety by reconfiguring key intersections and corridors using modern design standards and context-sensitive solutions.

Responsible Departments: Engineering / Public Works / Community Engagement / Caltrans

Priority: **Long Term**

- Construct modern roundabouts or other intersection improvements where feasible to enhance safety and traffic flow.
- Conduct traffic signal coordination and optimization studies to improve performance along major corridors.
- Implement smart signal technology with adaptive timing to respond to real-time conditions.
- Enforce truck routes to divert heavy vehicles from residential and sensitive corridors.

(Urgent)

- Collaborate with Caltrans and regional agencies to evaluate the feasibility of new Highway 101 exits or ramp improvements that reduce local congestion.
- Upgrade lane striping, signage, and turn guidance to eliminate bottlenecks and improve wayfinding.
- Engage the community in corridor redesign to balance mobility, safety, and neighborhood quality.

5.4.2 – Improve roadway conditions through data-driven maintenance and capital planning

Preserve and extend the lifespan of city streets and sidewalks through preventive maintenance, coordinated utility planning, and performance-based investment.

Responsible Department: Engineering/Public Works

Priority: **Urgent**

- Slurry Seal & Micro-Surfacing Program (Year 1): Expand annual pavement preservation activities in alignment with the Pavement Management Program.
- Sidewalk Replacement Program: Conduct a comprehensive assessment of sidewalks and needed ADA improvements to prioritize maintenance and upgrades.
- Implement a five-year rolling Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to guide street reconstruction and rehabilitation.
- Coordinate with utility providers to minimize redundant excavations and reduce road disruption.
- Integrate Pavement Condition Index (PCI) data into annual budgeting and project prioritization.
- Upgrade street signs, reflective striping, and pavement markers during resurfacing to enhance visibility and nighttime safety.

5.4.3 – Implement smart mobility and traffic monitoring systems.

Use technology and real-time data to improve traffic flow, enhance safety, and support proactive infrastructure management.

Responsible Departments: Engineering / Public Works / Information Technology / Police Department

Priority: **Long Term**

- Deploy traffic sensors, cameras, and vehicle-counting devices to monitor congestion, speed, and travel times along key corridors.
- Implement adaptive signal control systems that adjust light timing dynamically based on vehicle and pedestrian demand.
- Create a citywide traffic data dashboard to inform staff, emergency responders, and the public of real-time conditions.
- Integrate GPS and GIS-based analytics into maintenance scheduling and traffic management.
- Pilot smart parking and curb-management technologies in downtown or school-adjacent zones to improve turnover and reduce circling.
- Collaborate with regional transportation agencies and Caltrans to share mobility data and synchronize corridor performance.
- Utilize data from radar feedback signs and crash reports to identify high-risk locations and prioritize safety improvements.

- Explore grant funding under SMART Grants, HSIP, ATP, and Caltrans Technology Innovation Programs to support implementation.

5.5 - Goal: Promote Beautification, Streetscape Design, and Community Placemaking

Enhance Soledad’s visual identity and mobility experience through cohesive streetscape design, landscaping, art, and community-centered public spaces. Prioritize corridors and connections that promote walkability, safety, and civic pride.

5.5.1 – Transform key corridors through comprehensive streetscape design.

Create unique streetscapes that are inviting and memorable, celebrating Soledad’s character, improving mobility, and strengthening community identity.

Responsible Departments: Community & Economic Development (CED) / Public Works

Priority: **Semi Urgent**

- Develop a more detailed streetscape plan for Downtown based on the ELS design concept.
- Develop a comprehensive corridor design plan from Highway 101 to Downtown that aligns with Complete Streets principles and local character.
- Develop branding and design guidelines for public furniture, lighting, signage, and paving to ensure visual consistency across city projects.
- Upgrade and unify wayfinding and directional signage guiding residents and visitors to Downtown, Pinnacles National Park, parks, and civic destinations.
- Expand and illuminate gateway monument signage that reflects Soledad’s identity as the “Gateway to Pinnacles.”
- Complete the Front Street Landscape Project (also in Chapter 4: Community Places).
- Install native, drought-tolerant landscaping and decorative fencing along the freeway-facing side of Front Street and other key gateways.
- Integrate public art, murals, and sculpture installations at underpasses, bridges, and high-visibility entry points.
- Encourage temporary and permanent art installations, including murals, pop-up exhibits, and artist-led streetscape enhancements.
- Collaborate with schools, cultural groups, and local artists to celebrate Soledad’s agricultural heritage and diversity through art and landscape themes.
- Incorporate cultural storytelling, interpretive signage, and historical markers along key corridors.
- Coordinate with Caltrans, Monterey County, and TAMC for shared investment in corridor beautification and maintenance.
- Host community beautification days, art walks, and planting events that engage youth and local organizations.

5.5.2 – Strengthen pedestrian and bicycle connections between parks, neighborhoods, and housing developments.

Enhance walkability, recreation, and neighborhood cohesion through attractive, safe, and connected greenway and trail networks.

Responsible Departments: Engineering / Parks & Recreation / Community & Economic Development (CED)

Priority: **Long Term**

- Install pedestrian-scale lighting, benches, and wayfinding signage along key greenways and neighborhood connectors.
- Develop an interconnected walking trail system linking Gabilan Plaza, local schools, residential developments, and park facilities.
- Incorporate shade trees, fitness equipment, rest areas, and art installations along connector paths to encourage everyday use.
- Establish consistent streetscape design standards across residential frontages, trails, and adjacent public spaces.
- Collaborate with developers to integrate sidewalk, landscape, and public art features into new subdivisions to support active lifestyles and visual cohesion.

5.5.3 – Expand citywide urban forestry and green infrastructure.

Increase shade, comfort, and environmental resilience by expanding Soledad’s urban tree canopy and green infrastructure. *(Some of these goals are also found in Chapter 3, Environmental Justice and Equity)*

Responsible Departments: Public Works / CED

Priority: **Long Term**

- Implement a 5-Year Urban Forestry and Canopy Plan to plant native shade trees along parks, sidewalks, medians, and public buildings.
- Launch an “Adopt-a-Tree” program to engage residents, businesses, and community groups in ongoing tree planting and maintenance.
- Prioritize native and drought-tolerant species that support biodiversity and reduce water use.
- Integrate green infrastructure elements such as rain gardens and permeable surfaces into streetscape projects to manage stormwater sustainably.
- Include urban forestry metrics (canopy coverage, tree survival rate, and species diversity) in annual beautification reports and grant proposals.

5.6 - Goal: Increase Mobility Innovation and Future Planning Capabilities

Advance Soledad’s transportation planning capacity through technology, transparent project management, and forward-thinking mobility innovation. Build systems that enable efficient, equitable, and sustainable delivery of infrastructure improvements.

5.6.1 – Complete and implement the Circulation Plan outlined in the General Plan to enhance community connectivity.

Responsible Departments: CED/Public Works

Priority: **Long Term**

- Resubmit the Planning funding application for the Pinnacles Parkway Project to establish a second grade-separated crossing, create a multi-modal corridor, and construct two roundabouts connecting the east end of Los Coches Road to Metz Road.
- Collaborate with residents to identify and design a pedestrian railroad crossing near Palm Avenue and 8th Street, as recommended in the General Plan.
- Pursue opportunities to design and construct a third highway ramp to improve emergency access and overall mobility in Soledad, which currently has only two ramps.

5.6.2 – Create a Transparent Capital Improvement Project (CIP) tracking system.

Improve accountability, coordination, and public engagement by making capital projects and budgets accessible in real time.

Responsible Department: Public Works/Finance

Priority: **Semi Urgent**

- Develop an online CIP dashboard showcasing all active and planned transportation and infrastructure projects.
 - o Include timelines, budgets, milestones, and funding sources, updated quarterly or in real time.
 - o Integrate community feedback tools to allow residents to comment and ask questions about projects directly.
 - o Ensure the platform is mobile-friendly and available in English and Spanish.
 - o Promote the dashboard at budget workshops, planning forums, and community meetings to increase transparency.
- Train department heads and project managers to maintain up-to-date information and coordinate data entry across departments.

5.6.3 – Conduct transportation impact fee and cost allocation studies.

Responsible Departments: Community & Economic Development/Public Works / Finance

Priority: **Urgent**

- Complete the nexus study and update the current transportation impact fee to include Miramonte.
- Update the transportation impact fee after the completion of the General Plan if needed.
- Engage developers, regional agencies, and community stakeholders to align fee structures with infrastructure timelines.
- Adjust fee programs to support infill and affordable housing while maintaining fiscal sustainability.
- Publish annual transparency reports showing how fees are collected and invested in infrastructure.
- Leverage impact fee revenue to secure regional and state grants for transportation and multimodal improvements.

5.6.4 – Coordinate Surplus Land Planning for Future Mobility Infrastructure

Leverage city-owned and surplus land to advance long-term mobility goals and connectivity.

Responsible Departments: Planning / Public Works

Priority: **Semi Urgent**

- Identify city-owned and underutilized parcels for future use as trailheads, mobility hubs, park-and-ride lots, or shared-ride zones.
- Ensure compliance with the State Surplus Lands Act while maximizing local community benefit.
- Collaborate with regional planning agencies to establish mobility-supportive zoning for identified parcels.
- Prioritize parcels connecting affordable housing, parks, and transportation corridors.
- Incorporate surplus land analysis into the City’s General Plan and Capital Improvement Program (CIP).
- Explore public-private partnerships (P3s) for EV charging, shared micro-mobility, or logistics staging areas.

5.6.5 – Advance Smart Mobility and Innovation Partnerships

Position Soledad as a regional leader in smart and sustainable mobility by piloting innovative technologies and building collaborative partnerships.

Responsible Departments: Engineering / Public Works / Community Engagement / Regional Partners (TAMC, MST, Caltrans)

Priority: **Long Term**

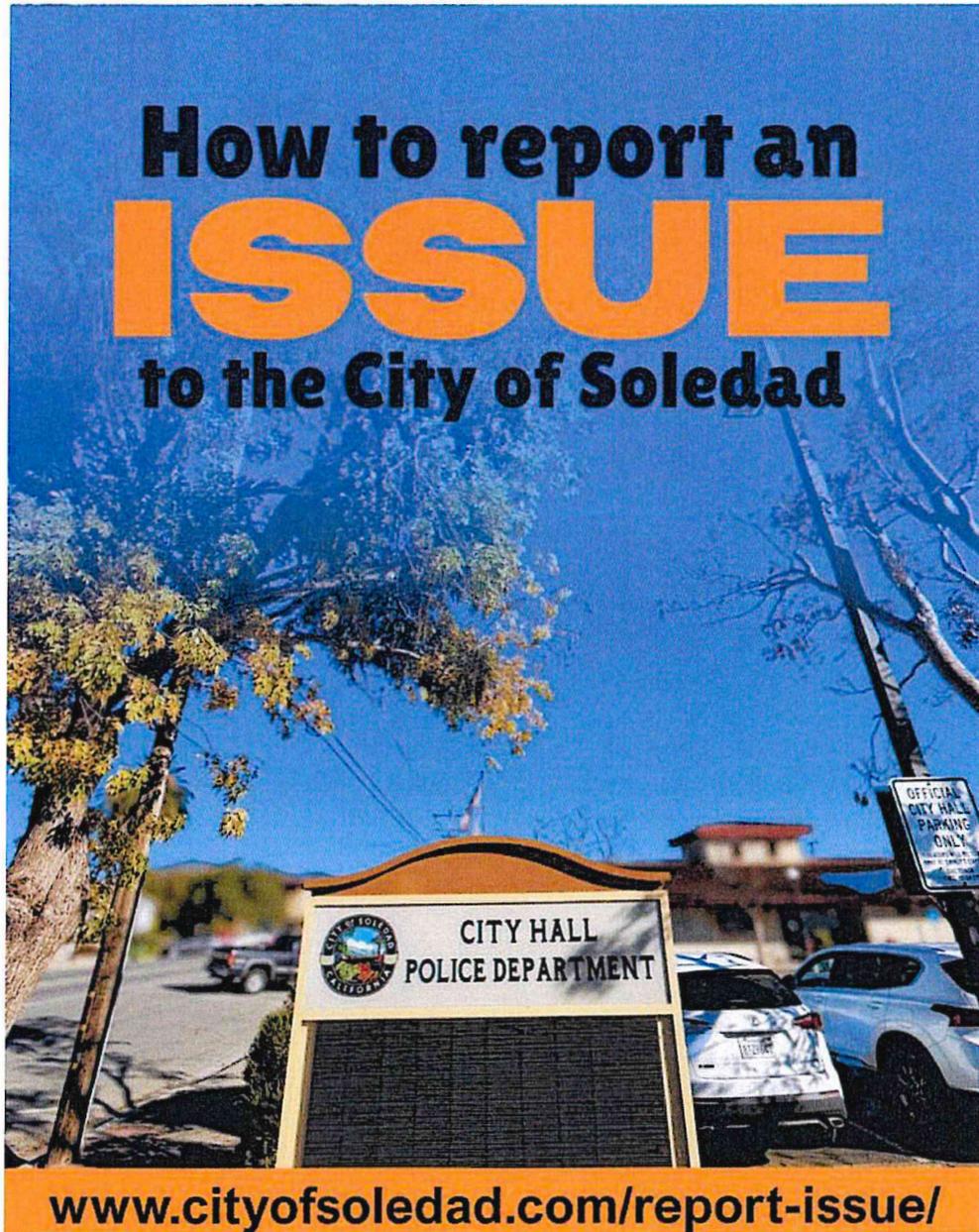
- Partner with TAMC, MST, and Caltrans to pilot smart mobility technologies, such as adaptive traffic signals, connected vehicle sensors, and real-time travel data platforms.
- Expand electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in city-owned parking lots, community centers, and transit hubs. **(Urgent)**

- Launch a Smart Corridor Pilot Project integrating real-time traffic monitoring, dynamic signage, and pedestrian sensors to enhance safety and efficiency.
- Develop a data-sharing framework with regional agencies to align transportation, environmental, and public safety data systems.
- Explore micro-mobility programs (e-scooters, e-bikes) to expand first- and last-mile connectivity between neighborhoods, schools, and downtown.
- Pursue state and federal innovation grants (e.g., SMART, Carbon Reduction, Clean Mobility Options, ATP) to fund pilot projects.
- Incorporate climate resilience and carbon-reduction metrics into all transportation planning and reporting.
- Host annual Mobility Innovation Forums to showcase new technologies and invite feedback from residents, students, and businesses.



cityofsoledadca
Soledad, California

Attachment 6



View insights

Boost post



cityofsoledadca It's easy to report problems online through the City of Soledad's website. Use our "Report an Issue" tool online at cityofsoledad.com/report-issue

Es facil reportar un problema a través del sitio web de la Ciudad de Soledad. Usa nuestra herramienta para reportar problemas: cityofsoledad.com/report-issue