



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: James R. Helmer

SUBJECT: ROUTE 880/STEVENS CREEK
INTERCHANGE UPGRADE

DATE: 01-05-06

Approved

Date

1/10/06

Council District: Citywide

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of cooperative agreement with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority for a project to upgrade the traffic handling capacity and operations of the freeway interchange at Interstate 880 and Stevens Creek Boulevard, for a City-funded amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.

BACKGROUND

The existing freeway interchange at Interstate 880 and Stevens Creek Boulevard was built in 1972. Due to continued growth and development in the surrounding area, the existing interchange design does not have sufficient capacity to process the high traffic volumes that occur at this location. As the primary access point to the regional shopping district along Stevens Creek Boulevard that includes Westfield Valley Fair Mall and Santana Row, and multiple auto dealerships, severe traffic congestion at 880/Stevens Creek is a regular condition during commute periods and weekends. This condition also contributes to significant traffic back-ups on the regional highway system, specifically Interstate 280 and 880.

As part of the development approval for the Valley Fair and Santana Row projects, some minor operational improvements were made to the interchange. In addition, the City received a \$300,000 private development contribution to begin planning for a major interchange upgrade. Based on the results of this planning effort, a conceptual design for the interchange upgrade has been completed in coordination with Caltrans and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). The estimated cost of the interchange improvement is \$14 million (in 2003 dollars).

In December 2003, the City Council identified improving the 880/Stevens Creek interchange as a high priority for future regional transportation funding. Subsequently, the VTA Board also approved the project as a priority in the regional transportation improvement plan known as Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2030 (approved in February 2005). Since that time,

significant progress has been made towards funding the interchange upgrade. This includes the City Council's approval during the development of the FY 2005-2006 budget to fund a local share toward the project in the amount of \$1.5 million, and in August 2005, the new Federal Transportation Bill was approved and included a \$12.6 million High Priority Project funding earmark for the 880/Stevens Creek upgrade project.

To implement the further planning, design, and construction of the project, it is proposed the City of San José enter into a partnership arrangement with the VTA. In this regard, a cooperative agreement with the VTA has been prepared for City Council consideration.

ANALYSIS

The City has experienced a very successful partnership with the VTA in implementing regional highway improvements in San José. The staff and consultant team at the VTA has significant expertise in the delivery of freeway improvement projects through their management of the 1996 Measure B transportation program that includes: Route 101 widening from Bernal Road to Morgan Hill (complete), Route 880 widening from Montague Expressway to First Street (complete), and Route 87 widening from Julian Street to Interstate 280 (under construction).

Recent and current City/VTA partnerships include the new Route 101/Bailey Road interchange in Coyote Valley (complete), I-880/Coleman Avenue interchange upgrade (under construction), Route 101/Blossom Hill Road (planning), and Route 101/Tully/Capitol/Yerba Buena (planning). The VTA has in the past delivered projects in a timely and cost efficient manner and has been successful in obtaining state and federal funding participation for local priorities.

For the 880/Stevens Creek project, the proposed cooperative agreement addresses the following obligations between the City and VTA:

- The VTA will be the lead agency for project delivery and will involve the City and Caltrans as active participants. The VTA will be the lead for securing the federal funding commitment of \$12,600,000.
- The City will contribute \$1,500,000 for project planning, environmental clearance and preliminary engineering. City funds will be provided in an initial deposit of \$750,000; and with the balance of \$750,000 to be deposited upon submittal of Project Study Report to Caltrans for approval.
- As needed, the VTA and City will jointly pursue additional funds needed to complete construction of the project.
- The term of the agreement is until December 31, 2007. The City's Director of Transportation is authorized to extend the term by six months.

The scope of the 880/Stevens Creek improvements includes four main features: 1) reconfiguration of the northbound 880 off-ramp to Stevens Creek Boulevard to increase traffic capacity, 2) coordination of traffic signals along Stevens Creek Boulevard to improve traffic flow, 3) new connectors to separate off-ramp traffic to Stevens Creek Boulevard from the northbound 280 to northbound 880 freeway traffic, and 4) increase ramp capacity from southbound 880 to northbound 280 to alleviate traffic congestion. The proposed implementation schedule for the project will depend on the release of federal construction funds for the project. However, the goal is to complete the project planning and design by late 2007 and complete construction in 2009.

OUTCOME

The City's funding contribution and cooperation agreement with the VTA will facilitate timely implementation of upgrades to the 880/Stevens Creek interchange and will have the community benefits of improved regional traffic flow and increased traffic safety. Additionally, having more convenient access to the Stevens Creek Boulevard commercial area helps enhance the economic vitality of this business district.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Public outreach will be included in the environmental review phase of the project development.

COORDINATION

This report has been prepared in coordination with the City Attorney's Office and the City Manager's Budget Office.

COST IMPLICATIONS

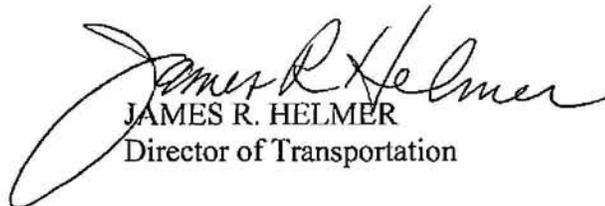
The recommended action has a cost to the City of \$1,500,000, which is included in the FY 2005-2006 Adopted Budget. These funds will be used for project development and to leverage a federal funding contribution of \$12,600,000.

BUDGET REFERENCE

Fund #	Appn #	Appn. Name	RC #	Total Appn	Amt. for Contract	2005-2006 Adopted Capital Budget Page	Last Budget Action (Date, Ord. No.)
429	4423	Route 880: Stevens Creek Interchange Upgrade	141341	\$2,099,000	\$1,500,000	V-1109	10/18/2005, Ord. No. 27580

CEQA

Not a project. It is anticipated the VTA will be the Lead Agency under CEQA responsible for preparation of environmental clearance for the project, with the City of San José serving as a responsible agency for the portions of the project requiring related City approvals.


JAMES R. HELMER
Director of Transportation