



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: James R. Helmer

SUBJECT: RIVER OAKS BRIDGE

DATE: 01-27-05

Approved

Date

2/1/05

Council District: 4

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of first amendment to agreement with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority for the Guadalupe River Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge at River Oaks Parkway increasing funding in the amount of \$200,000, for a total amount not to exceed \$600,000.

BACKGROUND

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and the cities of Santa Clara and San José are implementing a project to provide a bicycle/pedestrian bridge across the Guadalupe River at River Oaks Parkway. The bridge connects the River Oaks light rail transit station area in North San José with the Rivermark area in Santa Clara. A project location map is attached.

The project is designated as a regional transportation priority in Valley Transportation Plan 2030. In October 2002, the City of San José entered into an agreement with the VTA, designating the VTA as the lead agency for the project and committing \$400,000 in funding for project implementation.

ANALYSIS

The scope of the project includes the placement of a 230-foot pre-fabricated steel bridge, 980 feet of paved trail and access ramps. The VTA recently opened bids for the construction contract. Seven bids were received and the lowest bid was in excess of the project budget and the engineer's estimate (by 13.7%). The higher than expected bid results are associated with the construction of steel foundations for the bridge. A total of \$3,040,000 is needed to fully fund the project.

The majority of funding for the project is from fixed allocations from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) (\$1 million) and VTA (\$0.84 million) regional grants. It is not feasible to increase the grant funding since they are considered "not to exceed" amounts and

have been programmed as part of a Bay Area and Countywide allocation process. To retain the use of these grants and to fully fund the project it is proposed that the cities of Santa Clara and San José increase their funding contributions. City of Santa Clara staff has indicated support for their increased funding share.

The San José funding contribution would increase from \$400,000 to \$600,000 and would be funded from North San José development fees dedicated to improving bicycle and pedestrian facilities in North San José. This source of funds is part of the North San José Deficiency Plan that was approved by the City Council in conjunction with the current North San José Area Development Policy.

The total proposed funding sources for the River Oaks Bridge project are as follows:

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) - Transportation for Livable Communities grant	\$1,000,000
VTA Bicycle Expenditure Program	\$ 840,000
City of Santa Clara	\$ 600,000
City of San José	\$ 600,000
Total	\$3,040,000

Subject to proposed supplemental funding approvals from the cities of Santa Clara and San José, the VTA plans to award the construction contract to the lowest bidder, Stevens Creek Quarry, Inc. The project construction would then start in March 2005 and be complete by February 2006. The consequence of not proceeding with the project at this time would be a delay of construction by one year due to environmental restrictions associated with construction in the Guadalupe River, as well as the potential expiration of the \$1,000,000 MTC grant.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The VTA has prepared the environmental clearance and hosted public meetings associated with implementation of the project. The project is supported by the community and the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

COORDINATION

This item has been coordinated with the Office of the City Attorney and the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement. Additional coordination has occurred with the VTA and the City of Santa Clara.

COST IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action increases City costs for the project from \$400,000 to \$600,000. The City's participation in the project is matched by \$2,440,000 in funding from other sources. Implementation of the River Oaks Bridge project is consistent with the Mayor's Budget Strategy as it is a project that will have no negative impacts on the General Fund and it spurs construction spending to help local economic recovery.

BUDGET REFERENCE

Fund #	Appn. #	Appn. Name	RC #	Total Appn	Amt. For Contract	2004-05 Adopted Capital Budget	Last Budget Action (Date, Ord. #)
465	6257	North San Jose Deficiency Plan Improvements	126209	\$2,187,000	\$200,000	Pg. 991	10/12/2004, #27267

CEQA

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Board of Directors approved the project and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration along with a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program on May 6, 2004.


for JAMES R. HELMER
Director of Transportation

Attachment

River Oaks Bicycle/ Pedestrian Bridge Project

