



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** James R. Helmer

**SUBJECT:** 3<sup>RD</sup>/4<sup>TH</sup> STREET COUPLET  
CONVERSION PROJECT

**DATE:** 03-17-04

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Approved

Date

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Council District: 3  
SNI Area: 13<sup>th</sup> Street

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the following actions to support implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Street Couplet Conversion project:

1. Approval of an agreement with BKF Engineers to provide transportation engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$265,000.
2. Approval of agreements with Union Pacific Railroad for modifications to the railroad crossings on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets in an amount not to exceed \$520,773.

## **BACKGROUND**

In June 2002, the City Council approved the Downtown Access and Circulation Study. The study was prepared by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the San José Redevelopment Agency (SJRA), working together with a task force of Downtown area neighborhood, business and San José State University representatives. The purpose of the study was to develop a multi-modal transportation plan that supported the growth projections and goals of the Downtown Strategy Plan, and in a manner that also enhanced livability for Downtown area neighborhoods. A major recommendation of the study was the modification of several one-way street couplets to two-way streets.

One of the couplet modification projects is the conversion of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets from one-way streets to two-way streets between Julian Street and Jackson Street. The SJRA has allocated funding for this project since the project is ranked as a number one priority in the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Strong Neighborhood Initiative (SNI) plan. The major scope elements of the project include the modification of traffic signals and railroad crossing gates to safely accommodate the conversion of traffic from one-way to two-way operations. SJRA funding in the amount of \$900,000 has been allocated to DOT from the FY 2003-04 budget to provide for the design of the signal conversions, and for the design and construction of railroad crossing conversions.

## **ANALYSIS**

### **Traffic Signal Conversions**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Street Couplet Conversion project requires modifications to five signalized intersections. It is proposed that the City use consultant services to prepare the signal design plans. This will allow for timely completion of the Couplet Conversion signal designs without impacting the schedule for other citywide traffic signal projects that are currently being designed by City staff. A consultant selection process was conducted in accordance with adopted City procedures, and the firm of BKF Engineers has been selected.

The compensation to perform the consultant services for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets Couplet Conversion Project has been negotiated and a consultant agreement with BKF Engineers has been prepared. These services will include the development of plans, specifications, engineer's estimate, and provisions for construction support services. This agreement is a time and material contract in an amount not to exceed \$265,000. The schedule of fees have been determined to be consistent with projects of similar scope of services.

### **Railroad Crossing Conversions**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Street Couplet Conversion project requires modifications to the railroad crossing gates and warning signal systems at the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) crossings at both 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets. DOT staff has met with officials from UPRR and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to identify the necessary changes to the railroad crossing safety devices. Agreements have been prepared that provides for UPRR to design and install the railroad crossing improvements at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street for \$250,963 and at 4<sup>th</sup> Street for \$269,810 for a total amount of \$520,773.

### **Additional Funding Needs**

Additional funding in the amount of approximately \$1 million will be needed to complete the construction of the signal conversions and for changes to signage and roadway markings. The funding to complete the project has not been committed by SJRA and is subject to review as part of the FY 2004-05 budget process. Once full funding for the final construction phase of the project is available, the project could be completed within 9 to 12 months.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Development of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Street Couplet Conversion project is being coordinated with the Neighborhood Advisory Committee for the 13<sup>th</sup> Street SNI and the Traffic Calming subcommittee of the Civic Center Parking & Traffic Committee.

## **COORDINATION**

Preparation of the agreements with BKF Engineers and UPRR has been coordinated with the Offices of the City Attorney and Risk Manager, the Department of Public Works, and the SJRA.

**COST IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of the recommended actions is for an amount not to exceed \$785,773. Funding for this purpose has been transferred from the SJRA and appropriated by the City Council on March 16, 2004.

This project is consistent with the Council-approved Budget Strategy Economic Recovery section in that it will spur construction spending in our local economy. After the project is completed, it is expected to have no new operating and maintenance impacts on the General Fund.

**BUDGET REFERENCE**

Fund #	Appn.	Appn. Name	RC #	Total Appn.	Amt. for Contract	Adopted Budget Page	Last Budget Action (Date, Ord. No.)
450	TBD	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> St. Couplet Conversion		\$900,000	\$785,773	N/A	03-16-04
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$900,000</b>	<b>\$785,773</b>		

**CEQA**

Negative Declaration, PP02-05-115

JAMES R. HELMER  
 Director of Transportation