



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: James R. Helmer

SUBJECT: VASONA LRT PROJECT -
SOUTHWEST EXPRESSWAY
CONVERSION

DATE: 08-04-04

Approved

Date

8/10/04

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 6
SNI: N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt an ordinance to repeal Section 11.24.430 of the San José Municipal Code to allow for the conversion of Southwest Expressway between Bascom Avenue and Stokes Street from a one-way street to a two-way street as part of the Vasona Light Rail Transit Project.

BACKGROUND

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is constructing the Vasona Light Rail Transit Project, which will provide an extension of light rail service from downtown San José, through the Willow Glen area, and to the City of Campbell. Construction of the Vasona Project began in April 2001 and is scheduled to be completed in Spring 2005.

The project scope includes the conversion of a portion of Southwest Expressway from one-way to two-way operation. The City's Municipal Code (Section 11.24.430) currently designates Southwest Expressway as a one-way street from Bascom Avenue to Stokes Street. This Municipal Code section needs to be amended to support the Vasona Light Rail Transit Project.

ANALYSIS

Southwest Expressway, from I-280 to Stokes Street, is a two-way, four lane minor arterial. Between Stokes and Bascom Avenue, Southwest Expressway has two, northbound-only lanes. The location of the Bascom Station and park-and-ride lot is along this one-way segment. See Exhibit A, attached.

The conversion of Southwest Expressway to two-way operation between Bascom Avenue and Stokes Street will improve circulation and access to the surrounding neighborhood and the Bascom Light Rail Transit Station and park-and-ride lot. In addition, the recommended

conversion to two-way operation will incorporate streetlighting, landscaping, pedestrian facilities and an extension of the bike lane network.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Vasona Light Rail Project, and specifically the conversion of Southwest Expressway to two-way operation, has been presented at multiple public and community meetings as part of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's Community Outreach efforts for the Vasona Light Rail Project. Those meetings include events held on July 24, 2001 at the Campbell Library, July 31, 2001 at the Quail Hollow Mobile Home Park, and May 14, 2002 at Del Mar High School.

COORDINATION

This item has been coordinated with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Planning, Building Division and Code Enforcement and the City Attorney's Office.

COST IMPLICATIONS

There are no costs to the City as a result of this recommendation.

CEQA

Exempt. File Number PP03-01-006

for James R. Helmer
JAMES R. HELMER
Director of Transportation

HFL:JAR

