

RESOLUTION NO. 17-14

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND APPROVING THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF I-80/CENTRAL AVENUE OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, Central Avenue is a designated Route of Regional Significance in the Contra Costa Countywide Transportation Plan, that is located in the cities of Richmond and El Cerrito, and carries significant volumes of traffic, provides access to Interstate 580, Interstate 80, State Route 123 (San Pablo Avenue), El Cerrito Plaza BART station, and Pt. Isabel Regional Shoreline Park; and

WHEREAS, Central Avenue also serves local neighborhoods, businesses, regional shopping destinations, a United States Post Office Bulk Mail Facility, and other significant land uses; and

WHEREAS, the 0.1 mile (500 foot) section of Central Avenue between Jacuzzi and Pierce Streets experiences significant congestion, especially during weekend peak commute times, due to lack of adequate turn lanes/pockets, and the close spacing of signalized intersections along Central Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Richmond and El Cerrito, seek mobility enhancement and congestion relief to improve traffic flow along Central Avenue at the I-80 and I-580 freeway interchanges; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Richmond and El Cerrito, Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) entered into a cooperative agreement in 2006 to study possible solutions to ease congestion along Central Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the study determined that major modifications to the I-80 Central Avenue interchange are cost-prohibitive and geometrically unattainable without significant impacts to the residences and businesses in the area; and

WHEREAS, City staff will work with Caltrans to review the possibility of adding a lane onto the I-80WB off-ramp at Central Avenue and onto Jacuzzi Street to help increase the capacity to move the traffic; and

WHEREAS, the study identified operational improvements to ease traffic congestion, and improve traffic flow along Central Avenue and intersections within the limits of I-80/Central Avenue Operational Improvement Project; and

WHEREAS, this proposed operational improvements project would prohibit left turns from westbound Central Avenue onto the I-80 westbound on-ramp on the weekend during the peak traffic hours 11AM to 3PM only, redirect I-80 westbound traffic to the nearby I-580 eastbound on-ramp at Rydin Road, and add two new interconnected traffic signals at the Central Avenue and I-580 on/off ramps; and

WHEREAS, City staff recommendation and City Council approval are needed, including prior public review and input from Richmond Annex Neighborhood Council (RANC), before implementation of any proposed extension of the no left-turn access onto I-80WB off-ramp beyond weekend peak hours, except for any construction and maintenance needs; and

WHEREAS, the Central Avenue I-80 mobility enhancement project needs equipment upgrades to the latest model of traffic signal controllers within the State Right of Way and project limits; and

WHEREAS, the two new traffic signals are to be designed to be visible only to drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists in the vicinity of these locations; and

WHEREAS, City staff will recommend to Caltrans that these signals shall be sensor-tripped to allow primary movement on Central Avenue and not be based on specified timing intervals; and

WHEREAS, City staff will work with Caltrans engineers to fine tune the traffic signal timing plans following the implementation of the project while considering input from the RANC Alternative Traffic Scenarios; and

WHEREAS, the proposed operational improvements require a customized engineering design to prioritize the traffic signal timing, in a measurable amount of time in seconds, in favor of the through movement of both the Central Avenue westbound and eastbound traffic and the I-80 westbound Central Avenue off-ramp traffic, during the weekend left turn restriction; and

WHEREAS, after comprehensive environmental studies, Caltrans has determined that this operational improvements project is Categorically Exempt (Class I) as outlined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Categorically Excluded in the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), and has filed a Categorical Exemption/Categorical Exclusion Environmental Clearance (CE/CE) for the project; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans has also approved the operational improvement project's Permit Engineering Evaluation Report (PEER) to authorize the project for implementation on the State Highway System; and

WHEREAS, funding for the operational improvements will be provided by a Federal Earmark (SAFETEA-LU) and Contra Costa's Transportation Sales Tax Measure J funds; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa Transportation Authority plans to continue the supports in the development of the operational improvements project throughout the design phase with the project administration and management given to Richmond staff, to make the project ready for construction; and

WHEREAS, following the implementation of the Phase I improvements the City of Richmond shall work with El Cerrito, CCTA, Caltrans, to seek timely implementation of Phase II improvements; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa Transportation Authority will coordinate with City staff and Caltrans to implement post construction monitoring of the effectiveness of the operational improvements for a minimum of two Saturdays (maximum four Saturdays) between 11 AM and 3 PM within 4 to 6 months after project implementation and to further implement effective traffic signal timing after the monitoring period; and

WHEREAS, CCTA and city staff will provide an update following six months of project implementation to the Public Safety Committee; and

WHEREAS, there will be no required financial contribution from the City for this operational improvements project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond staff will obtain an Encroachment Permit from Caltrans and manage the construction of the operational improvements project where there will be no required financial contribution from the City, and the City will be reimbursed by the Measure J and the Federal Earmark funds for all costs associated with this effort.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City hereby approves this Resolution of support for the project, and authorizes staff to manage the project design and construction, and post construction monitoring of the I-80/Central Avenue Operational Improvement Project.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Richmond City Council at a regular meeting thereof held Tuesday, March 4, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Boozé, Butt, Myrick, Rogers, Vice Mayor Beckles, and Mayor McLaughlin.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTENTION: None.

DIANE HOLMES
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

(SEAL)

Approved:

GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN
Mayor

Approved as to form:

BRUCE GOODMILLER
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 17-14**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on March 4, 2014.