



**CITY OF SAN CARLOS
TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: January 20, 2009

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDER APPROVING A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR PREPARATION OF A PROJECT STUDY REPORT FOR THE HOLLY STREET/US 101 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Request for Qualifications for Preparation of a Project Study Report for the Holly Street/US 101 Interchange Improvements (Attachment 1) and forward it to the City Council for final approval and release.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The scope of the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) has been expanded to include an Alternatives Analysis of circulation improvements that could relieve congestion and improve pedestrian/bicycle access in the Holly Street Corridor. This Alternatives Analysis was added to the scope in response to concerns expressed by the public and by the Commission. It will have a budget impact on the order of \$50,000. The funding for this analysis would come from the Traffic Impact Fee program. This will be reflected in higher Traffic Impact Fees, to be borne by development projects which pull building permits after the fees are increased.

BACKGROUND:

Improvements to the Holly Street Interchange with US 101 are required in order to accommodate increased traffic generated by the Palo Alto Medical Foundation's San Carlos Center (PAMF) and other anticipated land development. The PAMF traffic report identified three improvement projects that were needed to handle traffic growth:

- Holly Street/US 101 Interchange Improvements (this project)
- Holly Street Widening at Industrial Road
- Brittan Avenue Widening at Industrial Road

These three projects were included in the traffic impact fees adopted in 2008. The Redevelopment Agency issued bonds that provide the initial financing to move forward with these projects. Traffic models show that all intersections will operate at a satisfactory level of service, as measured by the ratio of Volume to Capacity (V/C). However, traffic congestion will still be noticeable on Holly Street between Industrial Road and Old County Road, as it is today, as measured by queue lengths. Also, the traffic impact fee program

does not address the issue of pedestrian and bicycle access on the Holly Street corridor, which is the only existing route to cross US 101.

The RFQ (Attachment 1) has been drafted to include a comprehensive alternatives analysis in the scope of services. This would be subject to extensive public input, including at least two reviews by the Commission, prior to consideration by the City Council.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the RFQ with the Comprehensive Alternatives Analysis.
2. Direct staff to revise the RFQ to proceed with interchange improvements without performing the comprehensive Alternatives Analysis.
3. Provide other direction.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Weil, P.E.
Public Works Director/City Engineer

Attachment:

1. Draft Request for Qualifications for Preparation of a Project Study Report for the Holly Street/US 101 Interchange Improvements

ATTACHMENT 1

Draft Request for Qualifications for Preparation of a Project Study Report for the Holly Street/US 101 Interchange Improvements