



Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Tell and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Neil C. Miller, Director of Public Works
Dana Greenwood, City Engineer

DATE: January 2, 2007

SUBJECT: Consideration of a Resolution Supporting the Sepulveda Boulevard Bridge Widening Project Grant Application in Metro's 2007 Call for Projects

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council pass Resolution Number 6076 supporting an application in the upcoming Metro's 2007 Call for Projects for the Sepulveda Boulevard Bridge Widening Project.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

The total estimated project cost for this project is ten million dollars. This includes design, construction, right-of-way acquisition, etc. The grant application would be for \$6.5 million. The required match for this category of projects in the upcoming Call for Projects is 35 percent. The City must therefore be willing to contribute up to \$3.5 million to the project. Staff is recommending that a combination of Proposition C Local Return Funds, and Gas Tax funds, if necessary, be committed to this project if the Call for Projects application is successful.

DISCUSSION:

Project Description

Northbound Sepulveda at a point south of the bridge is currently four lanes. The fourth lane becomes a right turn only lane as it approaches the 33rd Street entrance to the Manhattan Village Mall. North of 33rd Street, Sepulveda Boulevard narrows down to three lanes as it passes over the bridge. Once over the bridge, the street widens back to four lanes as Sepulveda approaches the Rosecrans intersection.

The proposed project would widen the existing bridge on the east side only. It would create a fourth through lane from 33rd Street to a point north of the bridge. Caltrans has recently updated the project cost estimate. The estimated cost at this point is \$10 million. This cost includes design, construction costs and an estimated \$1.1 million for right-of-way engineering and right-of-way acquisition. These right-of-way costs could be substantially reduced if the adjacent

property owners on the east side of Sepulveda dedicate the necessary right-of-way at no cost to the City. Staff is currently working with the property owners in an effort to accomplish this.

Right-of-Way Acquisition

The widening of the bridge was originally included as part of the Rosecrans/Sepulveda Intersection Improvements that were completed in September 2001. The bridge widening, however, was deleted from the project when it met stiff opposition by one of the property owners on the east side of the bridge. The scope of the project was then reduced so that it could move ahead and avoid losing Federal funding commitments.

This property has since changed ownership. The current owner is interested in changing some of the uses on this parcel. In discussions with the City's Community Development Department over the necessary approvals for the changes in use, the owner of the property has tentatively agreed to dedicate the necessary right-of-way for the bridge widening project.

The owner of Manhattan Village Shopping Center, which is the other property owner affected by the proposed project, is also considering major changes to their property. At the December 5, 2006 Council meeting, staff approved the hiring of a traffic consultant and an environmental consultant to prepare the traffic study and EIR for the proposed changes at the Manhattan Village Mall. At the appropriate time, staff will be discussing the need for right-of-way dedications from the owners of the Mall property.

The value of right-of-way dedications made by adjacent property owners would reduce the magnitude of the City's contribution to the project. While staff is recommending setting aside up to \$3.5 million (a combination of Proposition C Local Return Funds and Gas Tax funds), it is anticipated that this amount will be significantly reduced by the value of the right-of-way dedications. Staff recommends that the savings be used to reduce the Gas Tax contribution first and then any left-over savings be used to offset a portion of the Proposition C Local Return Funds set aside.

Proposition C Local Return

The County's guidelines for Proposition C Local Return funds allow for the City to set aside its annual allocations (currently averaging \$500,000) towards a larger project. These funds, however, can only be used to improve streets that also serve fixed bus routes. In the past, the City has used these funds to improve portions of Rosecrans Avenue, Aviation Boulevard, Manhattan Beach Boulevard, and Artesia Boulevard. Sepulveda Boulevard would be a qualifying use for these funds. It would be staff's recommendation that the City start setting aside available Proposition C Local Return funds and let them accumulate to fund this important improvement to the City's transportation infrastructure.

Project Scheduling

A typical Call for Projects covers a six-year funding window. It is estimated it will take the City six years to accumulate the necessary Proposition C funds to complete funding of the project. However, during this period, actual design and right-of-way acquisition could commence. There is also the possibility of attracting additional outside funds either in the form of grant funds (possibly from recently-approved State bond issue), from private developers of nearby projects,

or other local agencies (Los Angeles County or Caltrans).

The Call for Projects applications are due January 26th. Metro is due to make a final decision on all project applications by June 4, 2007. It should be noted that the funds being awarded in this category will be Federal funds, so all Federal procedures with respect to environmental documentation, plan development, and right-of-way acquisition must be followed. If the grant application is successful, staff would recommend retaining the services of Los Angeles County Department of Public Works to commence immediately with project design, the necessary environmental documentation, and formal right-of-way acquisition. The County Department of Public Works is very experienced in meeting the Federal requirements and following Federal guidelines.

It is anticipated that actual construction could start as soon as July, 2011. The schedule could be accelerated if additional grant funds, agency contributions, or private contributions are identified.

Attachments: Resolution No. 6076
GIS Map

xc: Richard Thompson, Director of Community Development
Bruce Moe, Director of Finance
Robert V. Wadden, Jr., City Attorney
Henry Mitzner, Controller

RESOLUTION NO. 6076

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING THE METRO 2007 CALL FOR PROJECTS GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE SEPULVEDA BRIDGE WIDENING PROJECT

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY FIND, DETERMINE AND DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby makes the following findings:

A. Sepulveda Boulevard is a major north-south arterial in the South Bay connecting the South Bay Region to Los Angeles International Airport and communities to the north of the airport; and

B. On a typical work day the traffic volume approaches 4,500 cars per hour in the morning and 3,500 cars per hour in the evening; and

C. Because the existing bridge is too near narrow, it forms a choke point for traffic traveling on Sepulveda Boulevard; and

D. Sepulveda Boulevard northbound currently provides four lanes as it approaches the bridge, but there is only room for three lanes passing over the bridge; and

E. Metro will be conducting a Call For Projects in Spring of 2007 to consider grant funding for projects of regional significance; and

F. The total estimated cost for the subject project is ten million dollars; and

G. The City Council, in support of the project, is willing to commit six years worth of Proposition C Local Return Funds (\$500,000 a year for six years = \$3 million); and

H. The City Council is willing to commit an additional \$500,000 towards the subject project, if necessary.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 2. Recognizes that widening of the Sepulveda Bridge should be a high priority for satisfying the City's transportation needs.

SECTION 3. Supports and directs staff to submit a Call For Projects application in the total amount of ten million dollars as part of the 2007 Metro Call For Projects process.

SECTION 4. The City Clerk shall make this Resolution reasonably available for public inspection within thirty (30) days of the date this Resolution is adopted.

SECTION 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

SECTION 6. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 2nd day of January, 2007.

Ayes:
Noes:
Absent:
Abstain:

Mayor, City of Manhattan Beach, California

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Rosecrans Ave

Proposed Sepulveda Blvd Bridge Widening Project



0 100 200 300 Feet

4 lanes North-bound



Valley Dr

3 lanes North-bound

Manhattan

Village Mall

33rd St

Sepulveda Blvd

4 lanes North-bound

30th St