



Staff Report

TO: City Council

FROM: Todd Parton, City Manager

DATE January 4, 2022

SUBJECT: Discussion and Direction to City Staff on Comments to the Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment Report Prepared for the IH-10/Cherry Valley Interchange Project

Background and Analysis:

On December 23, 2021, Beaumont City staff received public notice from Caltrans regarding a public hearing to be held on January 13, 2022, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. regarding the Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment Report (Draft IS/EA) for the IH-10/Cherry Valley Boulevard interchange upgrade and reconfiguration project. The notice specifies the intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). A copy of the public notice is included in Attachment A to this report.

Included in Attachment B to this report is a project overview published on the Riverside County Transportation Commission website. This summary provides a brief history, project status, and project schedule.

The City of Calimesa, Riverside County and Caltrans have been studying options for the upgrade and reconfiguration of the IH-10/Cherry Valley Interchange project. Planned improvements would incorporate an expanded bridge, expanded roadway approaches on Calimesa and Cherry Valley Boulevard, and pedestrian amenities. The Draft IS/EA concludes that, "... the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the reasons discussed below." After this sentence, the report states that the project would have less than significant impacts to the following: mineral resources, land use and planning, recreation, aesthetics, agriculture and forest resources, air quality, cultural resources, energy, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, population and housing, public services, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire. It further states that, "With mitigation measures incorporated, the project would have less than significant effect to Biological Resources, Geology and Soils (paleontological resources), and Greenhouse

Gas Emissions....” Based on these findings a MND was deemed to be appropriate. A copy of the Draft IS/EA is included as Attachment B to this report.

Three alternatives are under consideration – “Alternative 1 – No Build,” “Alternative 3 – Diverging Diamond Interchange,” and “Alternative 4 – Partial Cloverleaf Interchange.” These design alternatives are consistent with information presented to the City Council by Riverside County in early 2021. Attachments C and D provide graphics depicting Alternative 3 and Alternative 4.

The January 13, 2022, public hearing will be held in a virtual format. Written comments on the Draft IS/EA MND or on the project may be submitted by January 24, 2022, to Caltrans.

Fiscal Impact:

City staff estimates it cost approximately \$585 to prepare this report.

Recommended Action:

City Council discuss the Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment Report and provide direction to City staff on any comments that should be forwarded to Caltrans;

City Council discuss the proposed alternative alignments and provide direction to City staff on any comments that should be forwarded to Caltrans; and

Authorize Mayor Lloyd White to execute a letter conveying City Council comments to Caltrans no later than January 24, 2022.

Attachments:

- A. Public Notice – IH-10/Cherry Valley Interchange Project
- B. RCTC Summary of IH-10/Cherry Valley Interchange Project
- C. IH-10/Cherry Valley Interchange – Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment Report, December 2021
- D. IH-10/Cherry Valley Interchange – Alternative 3
- E. IH-10/Cherry Valley Interchange – Alternative 4