



## Staff Report

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Todd Parton, City Manager  
**DATE:** April 6, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** **Authorization to Submit Request for Federal Funding for Construction of the Pennsylvania Widening Project (CIP Project No. 2017-09) and the Potrero Interchange PH 2 Project (CIP Project No. 2017-023)**

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### **Background and Analysis:**

US Representative Dr. Raul Ruiz has provided opportunities for communities within his district to submit funding requests/proposals for community projects and for surface transportation projects. Cities may make one submittal for each type of project.

The funding opportunity for a community project is made available through the “Build America Better” program and project awards will range from \$1 million to \$1.5 million for projects that will be completed by the end of 2022. Each city may only submit a single proposal for this class of project. Due to the limited project timeframe and the limited dollar amount, City staff proposes that the City Council direct City staff to submit a funding request for the Pennsylvania Widening Project (CIP Project No. 2017-09).

CIP Project No. 2017-09 allocates a total of \$4,018,000 for the design and construction to expand Pennsylvania Avenue from two to four lanes from Sixth Street to First Street. Design is underway and should be completed during the 2021 calendar year. Approximately \$3.2 million of the allocated dollars are for construction. It is recommended that the City request the maximum amount of \$1.5 million for partial funding. Upon a successful award, the CIP would be amended, and the previously allocated dollars would then be applied to another City transportation project.

The funding opportunity for a surface transportation project might be available through President Biden’s draft “American Jobs Plan.” City staff understands that, if approved, this plan might provide funding ranging from \$15 million to \$20 million for individual projects. There is no guarantee that this plan will pass or that local submissions will be funded. However, City staff feels it is prudent to submit a project proposal to

Representative Ruiz's office at this time to ensure that Beaumont's priority project is understood and considered as this bill is debated.

It is recommended that the City Council designate the Potrero Interchange PH 2 Project (CIP Project No. 2017-0123) as its surface transportation item. It is anticipated that the City's submission would request \$18 million to \$20 million, based on the actual City dollars available to this project at the time of submission. Approximately \$7 million of the \$27 million of required construction dollars are already designated for this project. Design plans and right-of-way acquisition were fully funded by the City of Beaumont and area landowners, therefore, allowing the entirety of the federal allocation to be used for construction.

Potrero Interchange PH 2 consists the construction of access ramps to provide improved access and safety at the SR-60 overpass. Plans have been completed and are awaiting final comment and approval by Cal Trans. Provided that Cal Trans approval is secured in the near future, City staff anticipates that this project would be ready for bidding and the start of construction within the next 12 months. The image below shows the proposed ramp improvements.



### STATE ROUTE 60/POTRERO BOULEVARD NEW INTERCHANGE PROJECT

City staff has been in touch with the City staffs of Banning and Calimesa, who are each developing independent funding requests. It is recommended that the City Council authorize the Mayor to submit letters of support for Banning's and Calimesa's priority projects. Each project funded along the IH-10 corridor benefits the area as a whole.

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

City staff estimates that it cost approximately \$3,425 to prepare this report.

**Recommended Action:**

City staff recommends the following:

That the City Council authorize the submission of the Pennsylvania Widening Project (CIP Project No. 2017-09) as its priority community project with a funding of \$1.5 million,

That the City Council authorize City staff to submit the Potrero Interchange PH 2 Project (CIP Project No. 2017-023) as its priority surface transportation project with a funding request of up to \$20 million, and

That Mayor Lara be authorized to submit letters of support for Banning and Calimesa priority projects.