



Staff Report

TO: Mayor, and City Council Members
FROM: Todd Parton, City Manager
DATE: March 17, 2020
SUBJECT: Discussion and Direction to City Staff Regarding the Riverside County Transportation Commission Draft Traffic Relief Plan

Background and Analysis:

In January 2020, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) has finalized its Draft Traffic Relief Plan (TRP). This plan is intended to implement portions of RCTC's Riverside County Long Range Transportation Study (LRTS), dated December 2019. Both documents are attached to this memorandum.

The LRTS identified a total of \$19,907,532,000 in transportation projects through 2040. Projects include improvements and upgrades to the highway and transit systems. It should be noted that the projected costs are in 2020 numbers and are not adjusted for inflation. Actual project costs could increase significantly over time, especially in the later years.

As stated, the TRP is intended to implement elements of the LRTS. The TRP is a half-cent sales tax measure that RCTC proposes to place on the November 2020 ballot. RCTC's preliminary revenue projections anticipate sales tax revenues of \$8,583,680,911 from 2022 through 2051 for all Riverside County. It is proposed that these revenues be divided between Western County (\$6.7 billion), Coachella Valley (\$1.8 billion), and Palo Verde Valley (\$37.3 million). RCTC draft revenue projections are attached to this memorandum. No sunset provision is proposed in the sales tax measure and the tax would remain in effect unless/until repealed by the voters.

Should the sales tax measure be approved, RCTC may leverage them to issue bonds to increase project revenues in the near term.

Specific TRP projects have been identified for each of the three geographic area. Western County projects address local streets and roads; local interchanges, bridges, on ramps, and off ramps; highways; passenger rail transit expansion; separating local

streets from railroad tracks; bus transit; regional trails; operations and maintenance; services; and investment in technologies. All told, costs for Western County TRP projects total \$10,405,000,000 in 2020 dollars. Projected revenues from the sales tax measure account for 64.4% of the funds needed. RCTC's Draft Western Riverside County Traffic Relief Plan Investments are attached to this memorandum. Either alternative revenues must be secured, or sales tax revenues leveraged to support bonds to address the remaining project balance.

RCTC provided a TRP update to the Western Riverside Council of Governments Executive Committee on March 2, 2020. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is included as an attachment to this memorandum. It provides an overview of the TRP and compares existing project funding to the list of projects included in the TRP. It should be noted that the comparison is to the entire list of projects identified for Western County irrespective of the actual means or ability to fund.

The TRP project schedule identifies funding for the Highland Springs, Pennsylvania, Cherry Valley, and Potrero interchanges. It also includes the IH-10 Bypass and widening of SR-91, SR-60, IH-15, and IH-215.

RCTC has created www.TrafficReliefPlan.org that contains a copy of the TRP and allows citizens to take a brief survey.

Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal impacts to the City of Beaumont are not known at this time. It is anticipated that the City may opt to engage in various engineering and design projects should the measure be approved, and project funding become available to address community priorities.

City estimates that preparation of this report cost approximately \$585.

Recommended Action:

City recommends that the City Council discuss the TRP, direct City staff to forward any City Council questions or comments to RCTC, and schedule this item for a future agenda for discussion and action once RCTC responses have been received.

Attachments:

- A. [Click here for link to: Riverside County Long Range Transportation Study – December 2019](#)
- B. Draft Traffic Relief Plan – January 2020
- C. Draft Riverside County Sales Tax Revenue Projections – 2022 to 2051
- D. Draft Western Riverside Riverside County Traffic Relief Plan Investments
- E. Riverside County Transportation Commission Presentation to Western Riverside Council of Governments – March 2, 2020.