

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** November 17, 2015

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Robert A. Clarke, Public Works Director/City Engineer  
Brian Mickelson, Assistant City Engineer  
Roxanne Namazi, Senior Civil Engineer

**SUBJECT:** Richards Boulevard Corridor Improvements – Near Term  
Budget Adjustment

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### **Recommendation**

1. Approve staff's recommendation to provide for the near-term improvements on Richards Boulevard.
2. Approve the attached Budget Adjustment of \$175,000 which provides funding for the proposed improvements.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The estimated cost of striping improvements is approximately \$15,000. The estimated cost of signal upgrade is approximately \$160,000. The attached Budget Adjustment provides for \$175,000 for funding these improvements from the Gas Tax.

### **Council Goal(s)**

The project meets the City Council's Goal 6 of funding, maintaining and improving the infrastructure of the City.

### **Background and Analysis**

At the September 15, 2015 meeting, the City Council directed staff to pursue a plan improving safety and circulation on Richards Boulevard in the near term, prior to any future developments in the corridor.

Staff reviewed the corridor and proposes the following improvements that would provide for immediate traffic safety improvements in the corridor:

### **Signing and Striping:**

- Eliminate left turns in and out of the Shell Gas Station and Dutch Brothers Coffee Kiosk driveways on Richards Boulevard. This will minimize the number of conflicts in the corridor. Elimination of the left turns will be accomplished by installation of delineators. Emergency vehicles may drive across the delineators when needed. Left turn access into and out of the Café Italia and University Parks Inn will be maintained.

- Create an exclusive right turn lane on Olive Drive to provide for a right-in, right-out access for Dutch Brothers on Olive Drive. Installation of the exclusive right turn lane will require removal 5 to 7 parking spaces on the south side of Olive Drive. However, this lane will provide for the queuing space that is currently blocking westbound Olive Drive and sometimes extends to Richards Boulevard.
- Refresh existing striping on Richards Boulevard. The existing striping on Richards Boulevard is faded and nearly disappeared in some areas of the corridor. The striping refreshing will provide for a clear guidance to all travel modes and improves safety for all road users.

Please see attached Exhibit A for the proposed striping modifications. The majority of the proposed striping improvements on Richards Boulevard are within the State right-of-way. Caltrans requires an Encroachment Permit for any work within the State right-of-way. Upon Council's approval staff will apply for the Permit. However, according to Caltrans, the permit process may take up to six months. We will work closely with them to expedite this process.

Staff has contacted the impacted businesses, Dutch Brothers, Shell Station, and IN-N-OUT Burger via E-mail and phone message. Staff has not heard back from the business owners to date.

### **Signal Improvements:**

The traffic signals between Richards Boulevard/Research Park Drive and First Street/D Street intersections (a total of five signals) used to be in coordination to provide for an orderly movement of traffic throughout the corridor. Over the past two years, due to the numerous signal equipment failure and malfunctions, the traffic signals have been gradually taken off coordination, as they could not communicate with each other. Staff proposes to upgrade the signals throughout the corridor. The proposed upgrade and/or replacements include:

- Communications: this provides for communication between signals and allows the clocks to be synched which is essential for a coordinated system.
- Controllers: This will allow for efficient and reliable communication and operation of the signals.
- Detection: Proper detection helps the signals to operate in the most efficient manner and minimizes the unnecessary delays throughout the corridor.
- Emergency preemption: The preemption will provide emergency vehicles priority when responding to an emergency.
- Pedestrian countdown with audible signals at all five intersections: The pedestrian countdown indication would bring the intersections up to the CAMUTCD Standards. The audible signals will assist the visually impaired pedestrians.

These upgrades will result in improved safety and efficiency for all roadway users including drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians throughout the corridor. Upon Council approval, this effort should be completed within four to six months, pending delivery of the equipment.

### **Long Term Improvements:**

The above improvements are intended to address some of the most pressing existing needs in the Richards/Olive area. However, other enhancements are still being explored to improve travel within this area. In the Richards Corridor, the most significant effort is the Richards Boulevard and I-80 interchange Project Study Report (CIP 8730). This Study is currently under way, in cooperation with Caltrans, and is expected to be complete in early 2016. This project, if approved by Caltrans, will eliminate the existing cloverleaf ramp configuration on the north side of I-80 and will construct the diamond shaped on and off-ramps (shown in the below figure). As part of the interchange reconfiguration, ramps will also be signalized which would improve safety by minimizing the conflicts for all modes. In addition to the increased safety, the distance between the off-ramp and Olive Drive will be longer which will provide for additional vehicle queuing. The Project Study Report also incorporated corridor modifications proposed in the approved Hotel Conference Center.



The conceptual design was reviewed by the Bicycle, Transportation, Street Safety Commission and recommended as a desired improvement.

In the Olive Drive Corridor, applications have been made for grant funding to improve pedestrian and bicycling travel and provide an alternative access point to the Pole Line Road overcrossing for travel north across the UPRR and south across I-80. The grant applications have not been successful to date. A grant application was also submitted to fund improvements at the Olive/Richards intersection that would provide grade separated crossings of Richards and

the UPRR tracks to provide safer off-road travel corridors for pedestrians and bicyclists, which would minimize modal conflicts on the streets and improve the flow of motor vehicles. This grant was also unsuccessful.

In an effort to better coordinate the currently envisioned improvements and to plan for the long term corridor improvements that will best serve the travelling public, staff will be requesting funding in the FY 2016-17 budget to initiate a formal long range vision for these areas and identify specific improvements. This will better position us to be more competitive for future grant funding opportunities.

Until such time that long term planning and improvements can take place, the signal and striping improvements identified above will greatly enhance traffic safety and circulation throughout the corridor.

**Attachment:**

1. Exhibit A - Proposed Striping Modifications
2. Budget Adjustment



REFRESH STRIPING ON RICHARDS  
BLVD AS SHOWN, EXCEPT THAT  
STRIPING UNDER DELINEATORS  
SHALL BE DOUBLE YELLOW

--- PLACE DELINEATORS  
@ 10' ON CENTER

8'

4" WHITE

F-928-20  
07/90  
TO: City Manager  
VIA: Finance Director

CITY OF DAVIS  
Request for Budget Adjustment

Agenda Item: 07  
City Council Meeting Date: 11/17/15

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPT Dept Head Juli Hawthorn 11/2/15  
Signature and Date

I request the following budget adjustments:

A. Internal Transfers of Currently Appropriated Funds:

TRANSFERS FROM PROGRAM NAME	FUND NO.	DIV/PROG.	ACTIVITY	ELEMENT/OBJECT	AMOUNT (CR)	FUND
					\$ -	
					\$ -	
				TOTAL	\$ -	

B. New Appropriation's Source of funding/Revised Revenue Change:

Unallocated Reserve	2105 Gas Tax Fund			109	\$ 175,000	
	<small>Fund Name</small>					
New/Revised Revenue Account	FUND NO.	DIV/PROG.	ACTIVITY	ELEM/OBJ	\$ -	
New/Revised Revenue Account					\$ -	
	<small>Revenue Account Number</small>					
				TOTAL	\$ 175,000	

C. Allocation of Internal Transfers and/or New Appropriations:

TRANSFERS TO PROGRAM NAME	FUND NO.	DIV/PROG.	ACTIVITY	ELEMENT/OBJECT	AMOUNT (DR)	FUND
Richards Blvd./I-80 Improvements	109	8730	480	4530	\$ 175,000	
					\$ -	
					\$ -	
				TOTAL	\$ 175,000	

D: Reason For Adjustment (Explain fully. Attach sheet if necessary. If new revenue, record a description on reverse side on Part VI.)  
Per Staff Report, funds are for near term improvements to the intersection including signing and striping and a signal upgrade.

A.  Funds have been appropriated & are available.

A.  Approved  
 Disapproved

B.  Funds have been appropriated.  
 Funds must be appropriated.

B.  City Council appropriated funds.  
 City Council informed of revised revenue estimate.

Kelly Sletten  
Signature and Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and Date

Date: 11/3/15 BA No. #049

Posted By: \_\_\_\_\_