



DATE: June 22, 2017

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Board of Commissioners

FROM: Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director
Bill Whitney, Deputy Executive Director

SUBJECT: Approve Funding Agreement with the City of Larkspur for the East Sir Francis Drake Blvd Project Approaching the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge (Action) – Agenda Item No.6l

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the TAM Board authorize the Executive Director to execute a funding agreement with the City of Larkspur for the construction of the East Sir Francis Drake Blvd Project approaching the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge..

It is staff’s desire to have the East Sir Francis Drake Blvd (ESFD) improvements in-place and in operation either before or soon after the third lane on the Richmond San Rafael bridge is opened.

The Executive Committee considered this item and recommended it be forwarded to the Board for approval.

BACKGROUND:

MTC/ BATA and Caltrans continue their efforts to open an eastbound third lane on the lower deck of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. A construction contract for the third lane is underway and completion is estimated to be in November 2017.

Beginning in January 2015 TAM initiated a series of meetings with Caltrans, MTC, Golden Gate Transit, Marin Transit, the County of Marin, the City of San Rafael, and the City of Larkspur to coordinate a possible set of improvements for the two approaches to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge using Sir Francis Drake Blvd and the US101 northbound off-ramp to Bellam Blvd. The group generally agreed any improvements to East Sir Francis Drake Blvd and the Bellam Blvd intersection would need to have a positive effect in providing access to the bridge while not damaging access to the adjacent business districts and communities. Ideally, any recommended improvements should have a positive effect on local access as well as reducing travel time for through trips to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge.

In January 2016 staff introduced conceptual improvements for both approach routes to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge as well as proposed bicycle access improvements to the westbound Sir Francis Drake Blvd flyover from I-580. Note the westbound SFDrake flyover improvement is necessary to assure safe passage of bicyclists exiting and entering the Bridge bike lane from Anderson Drive. In July 2016 these concepts were again presented to the Board and a funding strategy was approved to provide \$7.45M for these three elements of work. The projects are being pursued as individual stand-a-lone projects in order to accelerate delivery.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Staff has worked closely with the City of Larkspur to develop and finalize the scope of work. The ESFD work is within the City limits and will become the operational and maintenance responsibility of Larkspur. The following vehicular and bicycle improvements are being pursued and incorporated into the final design and construction documents:

- At the intersection of Larkspur Landing Circle West (LLC) – add a double right turn lane configuration onto westbound SFD Blvd, add pedestrian bulb-outs, and update signal equipment to allow the intersection to operate at an increased level of service (LOS).
- At the intersection of Larkspur Landing Circle East (LLE) – make minor traffic signal improvements to increase to operational capacity of the intersection.
- Relocate the existing eastbound lane drop on ESFD Blvd approximately 1000 feet to the east. Moving the location of the lane drop reduces the congestion that spills back into the intersection at LLE East.
- Relocate a small portion of the existing Class 1 path to accommodate the lane drop relocation and widen the shoulder to accommodate bicycle traffic.
- Add conduit infrastructure to allow for the future implementation of adaptive traffic signal control in the SFD corridor.

Permits

A resource agency permit is required from the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) as certain project features fall within their jurisdiction. TAM and Larkspur staff have worked closely with BCDC staff to secure the permit in order to meet our desired schedule.

An encroachment permit is required from Caltrans to authorize the installation of conduits to allow for the future connection and implementation of adaptive signal control in the SFD corridor from the Town of Ross to the Richmond San Rafael Bridge. Discussions with Caltrans are underway but require more detailed study that may impact the schedule. Staff has developed a strategy to deliver the major scope of work without delay. This signal work could be included in future contracts if necessary.

Lead Agency

TAM has acted as lead agency during the environmental and design phases of the project. TAM had discussions with the Larkspur Public Works Director regarding who will assume the lead role during construction. Since this scope of work is a routine part of their day-to-day operations TAM has requested, and the City has agreed to assume this role.

FISCAL CONSIDERATION:

The Board has allocated funding to implement improvements to the two approaches to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, (include bicycle access improvements) in the amount of \$7.45M which includes capital and capital support costs. TAM is estimating the ESFD Project construction and construction support to be \$2.3M.

Estimated project costs continue to be refined for all three projects and no additional allocation is needed at this time. However it should be noted the TAM Board allowed further use of TAM Debt Reserve funds if need be to assure the projects are fully funded and can move forward.

NEXT STEPS:

Execute a funding agreement with the City of Larkspur in the amount of \$2.3M to implement the construction and construction management phase of the East Sir Francis Drake Blvd Project.

It is envisioned the project will be advertised in August, with construction starting in September. Construction will be complete in approximately the November/ December time frame, when the Third Lane Eastbound on the Richmond San Rafael Bridge is open to the public.

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