



DATE: OCTOBER 19, 2017

MEMO TO: TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TTAC)

FROM: PETER DE HAAN, PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: RICE AVENUE GRADE SEPARATION FUNDING

RECOMMENDATION:

- Approve programming of \$1.5 million of Regional Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for the Rice Avenue Grade Separation final design.

BACKGROUND:

Within a few weeks the City of Oxnard will release the draft Environmental Document for the Rice Avenue Grade Separation project, with the final document expected to be completed in March 2018. This effort was primarily funded through \$1,760,000 in STP funds programmed by VCTC through a call for projects in 2012. Although VCTC and Oxnard worked with Caltrans to obtain a discretionary Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) grant for \$1,523,318 for final design of this project, no further funding has been committed to the project at this time. However, as has been discussed with TTAC and the Commission, the passage of SB 1 appears to provide an opportunity to obtain full funding for this project which is VCTC's top priority for goods movement projects. Caltrans has expressed a commitment to work with VCTC and Oxnard to submit an application for the project for the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program established under SB 1. According to the program's guidelines, applications are due January 30th, and funds will be made available to selected projects on May 16th.

The Attachment summarizes the project's currently-projected schedule, cost, and committed revenues. Upon completion of the environmental phase it will be possible to proceed with final design and right-of-way acquisition, which are anticipated to cost approximately \$15 million, of which \$1.5 million is committed through the FRA grant. VCTC is optimistic that the SB 1 funds will become available beginning in May but to show at least a minimal local commitment to the project and provide flexibility to keep the project moving prior to the SB 1 decision, staff recommends that VCTC commit \$1.5 million from the unprogrammed Regional STP apportionment balance to the project's final design phase. Approval of this \$1.5 million will leave an unfunded balance of \$68.3 million which is anticipated to be the SB 1 Trade Corridor funding request.

At the last TTAC meeting staff provided information regarding the STP balance and noted that at least \$1 million must be obligated beyond what is currently scheduled, to avoid a lapse. Obligation of \$1.5 million to the Rice Grade Separation should help to prevent a lapse of funds in FY 2017/18.