



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR LICCARDO

FROM: Councilmember Johnny Khamis

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: May 24, 2017

Approved

Date

5/24/17

RECOMMENDATION

Set aside funding for the future Branham Widening Project. There are two funding proposals for your consideration:

(a) This proposal includes design and construction costs for widening Branham Lane between Vista Park Drive and Snell Avenue, a new traffic signal at Kingspark Drive, a traffic signal modification at the Safeway driveway, new and upgraded streetlights, a median island with landscaping, a sidewalk on the south side, bio-retention, and enhanced bike lanes. The proposal provides enhanced safety along with enhanced beautification for the area alongside a major community-serving park – Martial Cottle Park.

(b) This proposal is a more limited version of proposal (a). The modified scope includes design and construction costs for widening Branham Lane between Vista Park Drive and Snell Avenue, a new traffic signal at Kingspark Drive, a traffic signal modification at the Safeway driveway, streetlights, bio-retention, and enhanced bike lanes. This proposal does not include a landscaped median nor a sidewalk, and thus does not offer the same level of safety and beautification enhancements as the full proposal (a).

Proposal

Program/Project Title: Branham Lane Widening Project

Amount of City Funding Required: (a) \$18,500,000 One-time funds and \$15,000 Ongoing
or (b) \$12,000,000 One-time funds and \$12,000 Ongoing

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.): General Fund – Essential Services Reserve and pursuit of state and federal grants for projects to “green” existing transportation corridors, consistent with the City of San José Green Infrastructure Plan, and in support of Vision Zero efforts to eliminate traffic fatalities in San José.

This change is:

One-time Ongoing

Proposal Description, including anticipated outcomes (describe how change would affect services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc.):

A tremendous amount of City staff and community involvement, along with City funding, has already gone into improving one of the City's busiest traffic corridors, Branham Lane. The City's vision has been to make Branham Lane consistent and safe for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers. This section of Branham Lane, between Vista Park Drive and Snell Avenue is the last piece of the puzzle in making this vision a reality. This section of Branham Lane is currently a single lane in each direction. This configuration causes not only massive traffic congestion, but – and most important – major safety issues for the area.

Crash reports from the last ten years (2007-2016) for Branham Lane between Vista Park Drive and Snell Avenue show a total of 161 collisions, three of them resulting in fatalities. One of these fatal collisions occurred at the intersection of Branham Lane and Vista Park Drive and the other two fatal collisions occurred at the intersection of Branham Lane and Snell Avenue. The crash data does not account for all possible accidents, as there were likely more minor accidents that were never reported to the SJPD, nor does it include any new crash data from 2017.

This is an essential, heavily-utilized roadway that must be addressed for the safety of our residents, and the improvements have been sought long before the opening of Martial Cottle Park, which has increased all forms of traffic – pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular – in the area. There is no question that this project would decrease vehicle and pedestrian collisions, while relieving the current traffic bottle-neck that causes traffic congestion. Furthermore, this project is a strong candidate for a City Green Infrastructure project, such as the current Chynoweth Avenue narrowing project, as the Council moves forward with its Green Infrastructure Plan for the City of San José.

While the completion of the project will provide improved traffic safety and reduced traffic congestion, the improved traffic flow and safe passage for bicyclists and pedestrians will also help businesses located along this section of Branham Lane. Aside from the environmental benefits of the addition of bio-retention, the addition of a street median included in the full project scope will provide added environmental benefits while improving the aesthetics of the area and providing a more welcoming gateway to a major, regional park asset – Martial Cottle Park - that is used by people from throughout the City and County, and others. Completing the full project scope will provide aesthetic consistency with the Chynoweth Avenue project that was undertaken to address many of the same issues and is now under construction, with completion estimated for October 2017.

Funding Source

Essential Services Reserve (\$2 million)

Other (Program/Project/Fund): Grant funding to be identified by DOT and other City Departments, such as ESD, to support Green Infrastructure projects and Vision Zero

Department or Organization: Departments of Transportation & Public Works

Department or Organization Contact (list contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation): Department of Transportation

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