Redevelopment Agency's Report

DATE ISSUED: July 7, 2004   REPORT NO. RA- 04-20
                                                                    CMR- 04-137

ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
                          Honorable Chair and Members of the Redevelopment Agency
                          Docket of July 13, 2004

SUBJECT: Old Town Transit Center Queue Jump Project- North Bay
                          Redevelopment Project Area

SUMMARY

Issues – Should the City Council and Redevelopment Agency:

1) Approve the appropriation and expenditure of $75,000 of Series 2000 North Bay
   Bond Proceeds and approve the transfer of funds to the Capital Improvement Program
   Budget No. 61-103-7 for construction of the Old Town Transit Center Queue Jump
   Project?

2) Accept the transfer of funds from the Agency in the amount of $75,000?

3) Amend and increase the Capital Improvement Program Budget No. 61-103-7 to
   include the $75,000 in Agency public improvement contributions?

Executive Director's Recommendations –

1) Approve the appropriation and expenditure of $75,000 of Series 2000 North Bay
   Bond Proceeds and approve the transfer of funds to the Capital Improvement Program
   Budget No. 61-103-7 for construction of the Old Town Transit Center Queue Jump
   Project.

City Manager's Recommendations –

1) Accept the transfer of funds from the Agency in the amount of $75,000.

2) Amend and increase the Capital Improvement Program Budget No. 61-103-7 to
   include the $75,000 in Agency public improvement contributions.

Other Recommendations - The North Bay Project Area Committee ("PAC") voted to recommend approval of the expenditure at the September 3, 2003 PAC meeting.

Environmental Review – This activity is not a "project" and therefore exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c) (3).

Fiscal Impact – $225,000 was previously approved by the Redevelopment Agency on March 30, 2004. The Cooperative Agreement between the Redevelopment Agency and SANDAG was amended to decrease the Agency's contribution to $25,000. This action is to approve the transfer of $75,000 to CIP No. 61-103-7 for construction of the queue jump.

BACKGROUND:

The Midway Community contains some of the most congested streets within the City of San Diego. To improve traffic flow and safety, City and Redevelopment staff are planning a series of capital projects to address transit and traffic issues in the area. Most projects will take several years to implement; however, there is an opportunity to improve traffic flow on Rosecrans Street within the next year by installing a "queue jump" mechanism at the gateway to the Old Town Transit Center ("OTTC").

The OTTC Queue Jump Project is designed to improve the intersection at Rosecrans Street and Pacific Highway. This intersection is frequently blocked by arriving and departing Trolley, Coaster and Amtrak trains. When the railroad gates on Taylor Street are down, the bus service is frequently delayed due to the resulting backup of traffic on Rosecrans Street.

The proposed Project would modify the traffic signal at Rosecrans Street and Pacific Highway to include a special "Transit Only" phase when traffic is backed up by trains entering and leaving the OTTC. During this phase, the buses would be able to proceed through the intersection into the OTTC while the gates are down. This would speed up transit services and ensure that passengers are able to make their transfer connections to and from the Trolley and other bus lines in a timely manner. Additionally, this would allow general purpose traffic to turn south from Rosecrans Street to Pacific Highway while the gates are down.

In addition to modifying the traffic signals, a 250-foot transit-only lane on eastbound Rosecrans Street would be installed. This transit-only lane would continue onto Taylor Street with a right turn into the OTTC. A 250-foot, general-purpose right-turn lane adjacent to the transit-only lane, would also be installed on eastbound Rosecrans Street so vehicles would be free to proceed forward and turn right onto Pacific Highway.

DISCUSSION:

On March 30, 2004, the Redevelopment Agency approved the appropriation and expenditure of $225,000 for the OTTC Queue Jump Project, and the transfer of funds to the SANDAG. A Cooperative Agreement was entered into between the Redevelopment Agency and SANDAG for construction and transfer of Agency funds. Additionally, pursuant to California Community Redevelopment Law, findings of benefit were made by the Agency and City Council for funding the construction of the queue jump.

SANDAG estimated the administration and capital costs of the Project at $350,000. To expedite the Project, the Agency offered to help fund the queue jump. By combining this Project with an existing City traffic signal modification project at the same intersection, the amount of the Agency contribution to SANDAG decreases to $25,000. Merging the two Projects, will also decrease the Agency's total contribution to $100,000, and construction of the queue jump is expected to be completed ahead of the target completion date of March 2005. The Cooperative Agreement has been amended to reflect the changes.

The Agency contribution to SANDAG totals $25,000 with the remaining $75,000 being transferred to the City's Traffic Signal Modification and Street Lighting Systems Project for the construction of the queue jump at Pacific Highway and Taylor/Rosecrans Streets. This Project will incorporate traffic signal and striping modification with the inclusion of the transit priority signalization for buses.

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra Fischle-Faulk   Approved: Hank Cunningham
Deputy Executive Director   Assistant Executive Director
                                               Redevelopment Agency/Community &
                                               Economic Development Director

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                                               Approved: Bruce Herring
                                                         Deputy City Manager