

Lompoc City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: July 5, 2011

TO: Laurel M. Barcelona, City Administrator

FROM: Kevin P. McCune, Assistant Public Works Director
k_mccune@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO STUDY STATE ROUTE 246 SANTA YNEZ RIVER BRIDGE AND CENTRAL AVENUE EXTENSION FEASIBILITY



RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the City Council review the SBCAG Request for Proposal (RFP) and either:

- A. Recommend the SBCAG Board authorize the advertisement of the RFP; or
- B. Request the RFP be shelved until a future date.

BACKGROUND AND/OR DISCUSSION:

The City has identified a need to update the East-West roadway connection to Highway 101. Highway 246 from Robinson Bridge just outside the City limit line to the rise in the road adjacent to Hibbits Ranch is substandard and subject to flooding. Robinson Bridge was built in 1939 and has no shoulders or sidewalk for pedestrian access. Highway 1 can be unreliable during emergencies being subject to mudslides and road washouts during heavy rain and rock falls during earthquakes. In the event of a natural disaster, the City needs a reliable, safe connection to Highway 101 to the east. Two solutions have been identified:

Upgrade Highway 246 along the current alignment

This project would replace the existing Robinson Bridge and re-build and elevate approximately one mile of roadway. A separate frontage road would likely be built to provide access to property owners.

Central Ave. Extension

This project would establish new river crossing starting at the intersection of Central Ave./"A" Street and connect to Highway 246 where the highway is above the 100 year flood elevation. The Lompoc roadway network was built anticipating this extension and the necessary right of way was dedicated east as far as the City limit line.

Each option has its proponents and foes. The Central Ave Extension has been a particularly controversial topic for years due to the possible diversion of traffic from Old Town. However, the two options have never had a thorough analysis for use by decision makers. Any solution will involve coordination by multiple agencies and have a significant cost. There is a need for the City of Lompoc, Santa Barbara County, SBCAG, Caltrans, and others to agree on a preferred option so all can begin the work toward implementation. Projects of this size and complexity can take 20 years or more to bring to fruition.

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Therefore, in approximately 2001, City and County staff asked SBCAG to prepare a study that would include a comprehensive analysis of each option in order to identify the relative pros and cons. Potential impacts and constraints due to environmental, archeological, geographic, traffic, farmland, right of way, socio-economic, hydraulic, biological, and cultural would all be identified. A construction cost for each project would be prepared and cost-benefit analyses prepared. SBCAG has had this project on the books for over 10 years but was never able to fund the study until now.

In October 2010, the SBCAG Board approved the Measure A Strategic Plan which includes \$300,000 for the preparation of a feasibility study for the State Route 246 Santa Ynez River Bridge. The State Route 246 Santa Ynez River Bridge project is programmed in the Measure A Strategic Plan for construction in FY 2034/35. In order to build this project, a long range plan is required for policy makers to make informed decisions. The City and County General Plans, SBCAG Regional Transportation Plan, and other policy documents need to be coordinated to qualify for Federal and State funding. Completion of the State Route 246 Santa Ynez River Bridge Feasibility Study would be the first step.

SBCAG staff has met with Lompoc, Caltrans, and the County of Santa Barbara to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for consultant services to prepare a feasibility study. SBCAG staff has recommended the Board authorize the advertisement of the RFP. The SBCAG staff report and RFP are attached.

The City Attorney has advised, due to Mayor Linn's interest in real property within 500 feet of the possible extension of Central Avenue, he must abstain from participating in or trying to influence any decision or discussion related to that possible extension, including this RFP. Notwithstanding that, during the public comment period on this matter, the Mayor may address the Council from the podium. Due to that conflict of interest, this staff report will not be included in the Mayor's agenda packet, but he may review or retrieve a copy of it in the same manner as any member of the public.

Kevin P. McCune, P.E.
Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer

Attachment: [SBCAG Staff Report and Request for Proposal](#)

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

Larry A. Bean, P.E., Public Works Director

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Laurel M. Barcelona, City Administrator