



AGENDA SUBMITTAL TO SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM TITLE Authorize the County Administrator to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Solano Transportation Authority and the cities of Fairfield and Vacaville regarding the implementation of the Jepson Parkway Project		BOARD MEETING DATE June 14, 2011	AGENDA NUMBER 17
Dept: Contact: Phone:	Resource Management Paul Wiese, Engineering Manager 784-6072	Supervisorial District Number 5	
Published Notice Required?		Yes _____	No <u> X </u>
Public Hearing Required?		Yes _____	No <u> X </u>

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the County Administrator to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Solano Transportation Authority and the cities of Fairfield and Vacaville regarding the implementation of the Jepson Parkway Project.

SUMMARY:

The proposed Jepson Parkway would ultimately consist of a continuous series of local roads that link State Route 12 in Suisun City to Interstate 80 in Vacaville (see Attachment A). The Solano Transportation Authority (STA), in cooperation with Solano County and the cities of Fairfield, Suisun City and Vacaville has been working on making improvements to the Jepson Parkway for several years, including preparing an environmental document for the entire project. Several segments of the Parkway have already been constructed. The only segment of the Parkway remaining in unincorporated Solano County is a portion of Vanden Road.

The proposed MOU (see Attachment B) establishes a set of guiding principles for moving the Jepson Parkway project forward. In particular, it requires the parties to operate the Jepson Parkway as a regional system of roads, and specifies guidelines for deciding which segment of the Jepson Parkway should move forward next. It also establishes a Jepson Parkway Working Group consisting of public works and planning staff to develop and prepare recommendations for how to proceed with implementing the next phase of the project. The MOU does not commit the County to proceeding with or funding any work on the Jepson Parkway; any such commitment would be contained in a funding agreement that would be scheduled for the Board in the future.

FINANCING:

There is no funding associated with this agreement. Should the County be involved in the implementation of improvements to the Vanden Road segment of the Jepson Parkway in the future, the funding would be addressed in a future funding agreement.

DISCUSSION:

The County road portion of the Jepson Parkway is Vanden Road, which extends for 2.8 miles from Peabody Road in Fairfield to Leisure Town Road near Vacaville. The existing Vanden Road is a heavily traveled, narrow, high-speed two-lane road with no paved shoulders. The Jepson Parkway project will improve Vanden Road to a four-lane road with a median and paved shoulders. The City of Fairfield is contemplating a potential annexation of Vanden Road from Peabody Road to about 2.3 miles east, which would leave just 0.5 miles of the road in unincorporated Solano County. It is likely this annexation will occur in the next year or two.

On May 17, 2010 your Board approved a funding agreement with the STA to initiate engineering design work on Vanden Road. The agreement called for the STA to perform the design work, for which the County contributed \$1 million in funding. The County's funding was rolled over from the County's \$2 million contribution to the cost of constructing Suisun Parkway north of Fairfield, which was part of a General Fund loan authorized in 2006 for regional road projects.

The MOU will provide a framework for progressing with the Jepson Parkway project. The key issue for the County moving forward will be funding the improvements to the County segment of Vanden Road, considering the County's initial contribution to the project, the County's lack of a dedicated source of regional road funding such as a transportation impact fee, and the fact that improvements to Vanden Road (particularly if the County is only left with a half-mile segment) largely benefit the two cities connected by the road (Fairfield and Vacaville) and provide little benefit to unincorporated Solano County. Such considerations will need to be addressed in any future funding agreement for the project.

ALTERNATIVES:

Do not approve the attached MOU. This is not recommended, as the County has supported the Jepson Parkway in the past, including committing \$1 million to the project. Approval of the MOU is needed so further progress can be made toward construction of the necessary improvements.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

County Counsel's Office has reviewed and approved this item as to form. The County Administrator's Office has reviewed this item, and concurs with the Department's recommendation.

CAO RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE DEPARTMENT
RECOMMENDATION

DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE:



Bill Emlen
Director of Resource Management