

**TO:** James L. App, City Manager  
**FROM:** Robert A. Lata, Community Development Director  
**SUBJECT:** Hazard Elimination Safety Grant Application  
**DATE:** March 15, 2005

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**Needs:** For the City Council to: (a) authorize preparation of an application for Hazard Elimination Safety (HES) Funds through the Caltrans Local Assistance Program; and (b) prioritize eligible projects; and (c) authorize the award of a contract to Associated Transportation Engineers to assist in the preparation of the grant application.

**Facts:**

1. The Hazard Elimination Safety (HES) Program provides funds for safety improvements on public roads, bicycle-pedestrian pathways and traffic calming measures. These funds serve to eliminate or reduce the number and severity of traffic accidents at location selected for improvement.
2. The maximum reimbursement ratio for each HES project is 90 percent and the maximum reimbursement amount for any given project is \$360,000. Projects that exceed \$400,000 are eligible for funding, but the maximum reimbursement is \$360,000.
3. The intersection of Theatre Drive and Gahan Place has had seven collisions documented since January, 2003. Sight distance at this intersection is compromised by the lack of street widening on Theatre Drive along the frontage of the old motel at the northwest corner of the intersection.
3. In April of 2004, the City Council adopted a standard for the ultimate completion of Theatre Drive from the Target Center south to City limits. This standard includes the installation of a continuous center turning lane and bike lanes on each side of Theatre Drive. During the course of consideration of this standard much testimony was received from business owners along Theatre Drive regarding excessive speeds and rear-end accidents involving customers entering businesses; and right-of-way accidents involving customers leaving the businesses. As well as providing protection for turning movements, a center turn lane is a commonly applied traffic calming measure.
4. Associated Transportation Engineers (ATE) of Santa Barbara assisted the City with the development of the Theatre Drive Standard. ATE has provided a proposal to assist the City with preparation of the HES grant application. ATE estimates a fee of \$10,400 for their assistance.

5. Among others, HES funds may be used for projects such as:
  - Sight distance improvement;
  - Median for traffic separation;
  - Traffic channelization;
  - Bicycle/Pedestrian improvements;
  - Traffic calming
6. The deadline for filing an application for HES funds is April 15, 2005.

### **Analysis and**

**Conclusion:** The accident history at the intersection of Theatre Drive and Gahan Place is significant. Typically frontage improvements are completed as properties develop. The owner of the motel property has expressed interest in redeveloping the land, but no application has been discussed or is anticipated to be forthcoming. Further complicating the development potential of the property are the limitations of traffic capacity at the intersection of Highway 46 West and Theatre Drive.

While no assurances can be made, improvements to the Theatre Drive-Gahan Place intersection make a compelling case for award of HES grant funds. In addition to the accident history and the direct benefit of improved sight distance, widening Theatre Drive in front of the motel will provide two continuous southbound lanes of traffic from the intersection of Highway 46 West. This will improve the operational efficiency of the intersection, which is a Caltrans and City priority.

The estimated cost of improvements to the frontage of the old motel is \$125,000. This estimate does not include right-of-way acquisition. It is anticipated that the City can acquire the right-of-way in a cooperative manner with the owner of the property.

It is recommended that a second project be included in the application. This project will involve widening Theatre Drive from the Target Center to south City limits in accordance with the Theatre Drive standard adopted by City Council. Many of the business owners along Theatre Drive installed their existing improvements at their own expense years ago (Johnston and Boatman are examples). This grant would provide the funding to reconstruct these improvements to a standard that meets their needs today.

The Theatre Drive corridor improvements will include a center turning lane and bicycle lanes north and south. The benefit of the improvements will be safer turning movements, traffic calming and implementation of a portion of the City's bikeway master plan. The cost of the improvements is estimated to be \$254,795. Here again, right-of-way acquisition is not included in the estimate. It is assumed that the property owners in the corridor will be very supportive of the project.

### **Policy**

**Reference:** Caltrans Local Assistance Program Guidelines, Title 23 of the United States Codes, HES Program

**Fiscal**

**Impact:** HES funds would provide 90% funding for the proposed projects. Estimated matching fund requirements are \$12,500 for the motel project and \$25,480 for the Theatre Drive corridor project.

Matching fund obligations are being included in the draft 4-year Capital Improvements Project Budget.

The \$10,400 required to prepare the grant application would be paid from the City's Gas Tax Fund. Thus, there is no General Fund impact.

- Options:**
- a. **(1)** Direct staff to make application for HES grant funds;
  - (2)** Prioritize two projects for inclusion in the grant application; and
  - (3)** Adopt Resolution No. 05-xx authorizing the execution of a contract with Associated Transportation Engineers to assist with the preparation of the grant applications for a cost of \$10,400.
- b. Amend, modify, or reject the foregoing option.

Prepared By:

John Falkenstien  
City Engineer

Attachments: (3)

- 1. Vicinity Map
- 2. Proposal for Engineering Services, ATE, 2-19-05
- 3. Resolution of Appropriation of Funds and Authorization to Apply for HES Grant

RESOLUTION NO. 05-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES APPROVING A BUDGET  
APPROPRIATION FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES AND AUTHORIZATION  
TO APPLY FOR HAZARD ELIMINATION SAFETY GRANT FUNDS

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WHEREAS, the Hazard Elimination Safety (HES) Program provides funds for safety improvements on public roads, bicycle-pedestrian pathways and traffic calming measures; and

WHEREAS, the intersection of Theatre Drive and Gahan Place has a significant accident history due to sight distance constraints; and

WHEREAS, at their meeting of April 6, 2004, the City Council adopted a standard for improvements to the Theatre Drive corridor between the Target Center and south City limits; and,

WHEREAS, Associated Transportation Engineers of Santa Barbara has provided a proposal to assist the City with preparation of the HES grant application for an estimated fee of \$10,400.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles to approve a one time budget appropriation in the amount of \$10,400.00 from the City's Gas Tax Fund to Budget Account No. 200-310-5224-772 to provide for the services of Associated Transportation Engineers in preparation of a grant application for Hazard Elimination Safety funds and to authorize the City Engineer to make application for said HES funds.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2005 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

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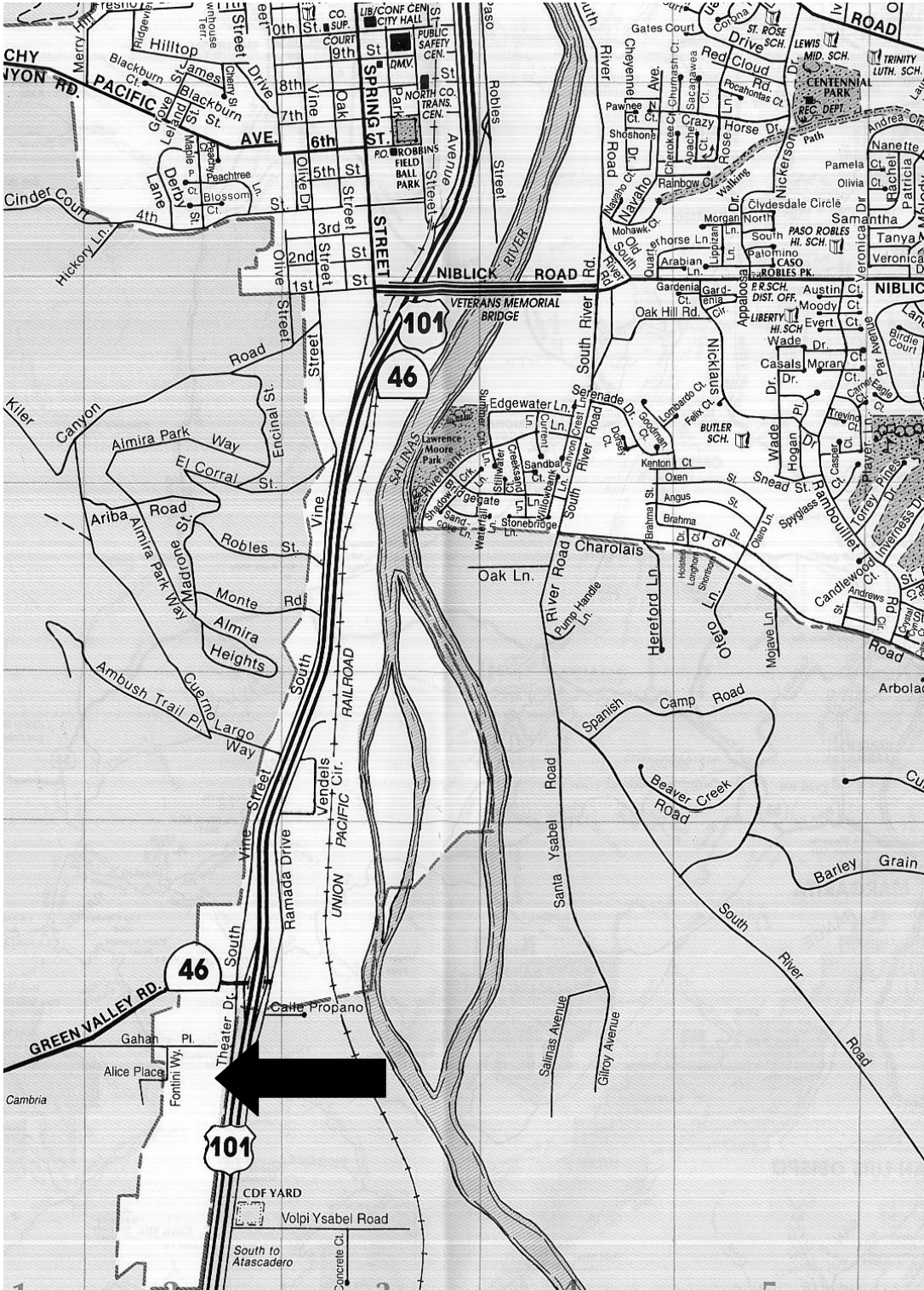
Frank R. Mecham, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sharilyn M. Ryan, Deputy City Clerk

# VICINITY MAP ~ THEATRE DRIVE

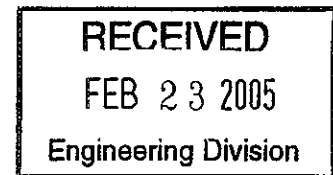




# ASSOCIATED TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

100 N. Hope Avenue, Suite 4, Santa Barbara, CA 93110 • (805) 687-4418 • FAX (805) 682-8509

Richard L. Pool, P.E.  
Scott A. Schell, AICP



February 19, 2005

05530P01

Mr. John Falkenstein, City Engineer  
City of Paso Robles  
1000 Spring Street  
Paso Robles, California 93446

**Re: Proposal to Provide Engineering Services in the Preparation of Grant Applications under the Hazard Elimination Safety (HES) Program for Two Projects on Theatre Drive**

Associated Transportation Engineers (ATE) proposes to provide engineering services to the City of Paso Robles to assist in the preparation of grant applications the HES program. The applications will be for two project located on Theatre Drive. I have reviewed the Caltrans Local Assistance Program Guidelines related to the HES program. The proposed scope of work is as follows:

1. Further review the HES program application form and the selection criteria. Meet and discuss with City staff to clearly define the projects for which the applications will be prepared. Site visit and take pictures of each project area.
2. Define the information and data that will be needed from the City to prepare the application.
3. Meet with or conference call with City staff and Caltrans staff the proposed projects and the factors which we have identified as being the major elements and justification for each of the projects.
4. Prepare exhibit(s) that illustrate the two projects. Review the exhibits with City staff and revise according to comments.
5. Prepare preliminary cost estimate for each of the projects.
6. Prepare the application documents (including cost estimates) for City staff review.
7. Revise the documents to reflect City staff comments.

8. Prepared Final Application document for City staff for approval, signature and submittal to Caltrans.
9. Respond to queries and comments from Caltrans regarding the applications.

**Schedule and Fee**

ATE is prepared to begin work on this project upon authorization and we will have the final application to the City not later than April 1, 2005. We propose that the work outlined in the foregoing scope of work be conducted on a time and material basis in accordance with the attached Fee Schedule (9/04). Traffic counts that may be necessary will most likely be conducted by a sub-consultant and will be invoiced on a cost plus 10% basis as will travel related expenses.

For budgeting purposes, ATE estimates that the above scope of work excluding traffic counts to be \$ 10,000.00. Traffic counts are estimated at \$ 400.00.

Please provide a work order or contract to authorize Associated Transportation Engineers to start work on the project.

Associated Transportation Engineers



By: Richard L. Pool, P.E.  
President

RLP/wp

Attachment: Fee Schedule (9/04)



# **ASSOCIATED TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS**

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## **FEE SCHEDULE**

(September, 2004)

Principal Engineer	\$155.00 per hour
Civil Engineer II	\$85.00 per hour
Civil Engineer I	\$75.00 per hour
Engineering Technician	\$75.00 per hour
Transportation Engineer I	\$65.00 per hour
CAD Operator II	\$60.00 per hour
CAD Operator I	\$55.00 per hour
Principal Planner	\$135.00 per hour
Supervising Transportation Planner	\$120.00 per hour
Transportation Planner III	\$110.00 per hour
Transportation Planner II	\$80.00 per hour
Transportation Planner I	\$70.00 per hour
Traffic Technician III	\$65.00 per hour
Traffic Technician II	\$60.00 per hour
Traffic Technician I	\$50.00 per hour
Traffic Counter	\$35.00 per hour
Administrative Secretary/Bookkeeper	\$70.00 per hour
Administrative Assistant	\$60.00 per hour
Clerk Typist	\$40.00 per hour

Travel, Per Diem, and other miscellaneous expenses are invoiced as separate fee items.