

TO: James L. App, City Manager  
FROM: Doug Monn, Public Works Director  
SUBJECT: Traffic Control/Management for 46 East Dual Lefts Project  
DATE: March 6, 2012

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**NEEDS:** For City Council to consider revising traffic circulation along 13<sup>th</sup> - Spring Streets to Riverside Avenue during the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge construction phase of the 46 East Dual Lefts project.

**FACTS:**

1. The 13<sup>th</sup> Street corridor between Riverside Avenue and South River Road is a major route that connects residents east of the City to the downtown area and provides access to southbound Highway 101.
2. The City's Circulation Element identified the need to address this traffic congestion.
3. In 2003, widening the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge over Salinas River was completed using funds allocated with Measure D98 Bonds.
4. In 2008, the City received funding from San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) to address a comprehensive project (known as 46 East Dual Lefts) to address traffic circulation as follows:
  - Install a second left-turn lane at Hwy 46 East to access southbound Hwy 101.
  - Install a new southbound on-ramp at 17<sup>th</sup> Street & Riverside Avenue.
  - Widen travel lanes within the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge over Hwy 101 by reducing width of sidewalks.
  - Improve east curb returns at 13<sup>th</sup> Street / Riverside Avenue to allow truck traffic.

With the completion of these improvements, residents will be able to access southbound Hwy 101 by turning right on Riverside Avenue and using the new on-ramp at 17<sup>th</sup> Street. This would alleviate the congestion currently experienced when motorists are waiting for the left turn arrow to travel southbound on Riverside Avenue to access southbound Hwy 101.

5. The 46 East Dual Lefts project is in construction and the contractor is currently working along Hwy 101. Attached is a Milestone Schedule that outlines the work stages and projected timelines.
6. As noted on the timeline, work is expected to begin at the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge over Hwy 101 in April/May 2012. This stage of construction will be performed in two phases:
  - Phase 1 – work on the south side
  - Phase 2 – work on the north side

During the first phase, the contractor will close the second eastbound traffic lane, thereby reducing east bound traffic to only one lane.

7. In January, AT&T performed work at the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge and closed the second eastbound traffic lane. During AT&T's work the traffic queue on 13<sup>th</sup> Street extended to Spring Street and motorists experienced delays as they traveled eastbound over the bridge. Similar congestion will occur with bridge rehabilitation work.

**ANALYSIS &  
CONCLUSION:**

Staff has considered circulation options along the 13<sup>th</sup> Street corridor and recommends that the City Council consider closing the eastbound traffic at Riverside Avenue (see attached exhibit). Traffic would be re-routed to 10th Street, and Riverside Avenue which would alleviate the extended queue through the downtown (see attached). This would also preclude motorist from stopping on the railroad tracks and would keep Pine and Park Streets open.

**POLICY  
REFERENCE:**

Circulation Element

**FISCAL  
IMPACT:**

None

**OPTIONS:**

- a. That the City Council directs staff to close eastbound traffic along 13<sup>th</sup> Street at Riverside Avenue during the construction of the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge over Hwy 101.
- b. Amend, modify, or reject the above option.

Prepared by: Ditas Esperanza, P.E., Capital Projects Engineer

Attachments: Milestone Schedule  
Detour Exhibit

**MILESTONE SCHEDULE  
46 EAST DUAL LEFTS  
DPW 06-01A**

**NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO WORK DURING THE MID-STATE FAIR**

**A. WORK ALONG MAINLINE HIGHWAY 101-SOUTHBOUND**

There will be various phases of work intermittently along the freeway beginning on October 2011 to April/May 2014.

Oak trees to be removed as part of the approved environmental documents will begin in February 2012.

**TRAFFIC IMPACT: INTERMITTENT LANE CLOSURES IN FREEWAY.**

**B. WORK AT 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET BRIDGE OVER HWY 101**

Work in this area includes:

- Traffic signal upgrades/adjustments at Riverside Avenue and Paso Robles Street.
- Remove/replace bridge barriers at both sides.
- Reconstruction of curbs, gutter & sidewalks.
- Retaining walls and abutments.
- Reconstruction of curb returns at Riverside Avenue.
- Installation of ornamental railings.
- Installation of ornamental lights.
- Texturing surface of concrete barrier.
- Bridge deck resurfacing
- AT&T to remove/replace old conduits at south side.

Night work/closure of freeway will occur so that contractor can remove existing concrete barrier at the bridge. Freeway will be open during the day.

Changeable message signs (CMS) will be set-up at four locations to notify motorists of upcoming work and advising them of traffic congestion and recommending that they use alternate routes:

- w/o South River Road
- w/o Riverside Avenue
- 19<sup>th</sup> Street & Riverside Avenue
- 15<sup>th</sup> Street & Riverside Avenue

Anticipated schedule: April/May 2012 to November/December 2013.

TRAFFIC IMPACT: INTENSE, LANE CLOSURE FIRST AT SOUTH SIDE THEN NORTH. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT MOTORISTS USE ALTERNATE ROUTES DURING THIS PHASE OF WORK.

C. WORK AT HIGHWAY 46

There will be intermittent various phases of work at this location July/August 2012 to April/May 2014.

TRAFFIC IMPACT: INTERMITTENT CLOSURE OF SOUTHBOUND RAMPS AND TRAFFIC DETOURED TO ACCESS SOUTHBOUND HWY 101 VIA RIVERSIDE AVENUE.

D. WORK ALONG RIVERSIDE AVENUE

Work at this area includes:

- Installation of new traffic signal at 17<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Ornamental fencing along the east side – 13<sup>th</sup> Street to new ramp.
- Ornamental lights – both sides – 13<sup>th</sup> Street to new ramp.
- Curb & gutter (freeway side only).

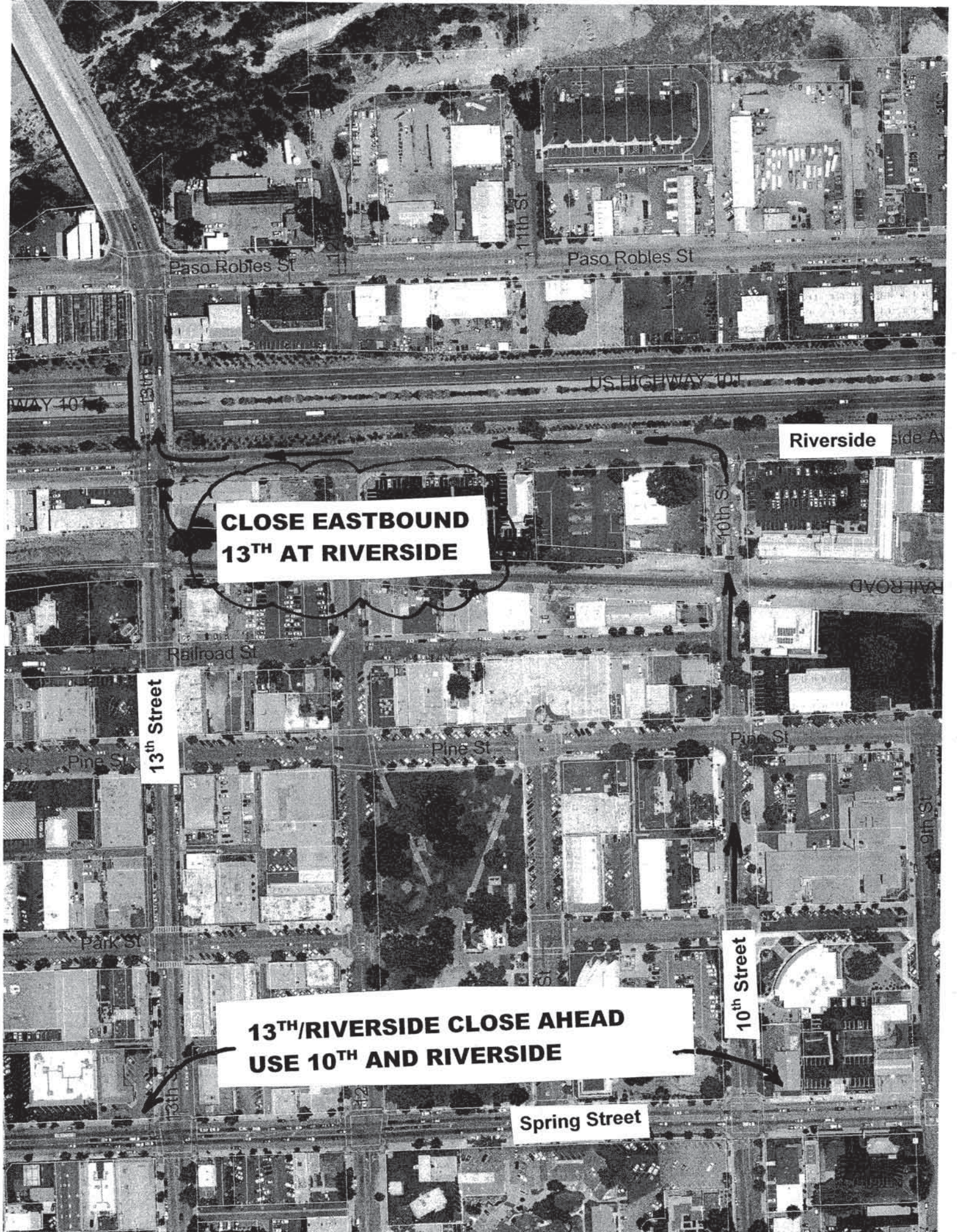
Anticipate schedule: August/September 2012 to December/January 2013.

TRAFFIC IMPACT: NORTHBOUND SHOULDER CLOSURES AT RIVERSIDE AVENUE.

E. WORK AT 16<sup>TH</sup> STREET OFF-RAMP

- 16th Street off-ramp will be closed beginning April/May 2012. Southbound Hwy 101 traffic will need to use 24<sup>th</sup>/Hwy 46 off-ramp or Pine Street off-ramp.
- New 17<sup>th</sup> Street off/on ramp will be available May/June 2013.

TRAFFIC IMPACT: NO OFF-RAMP AT SOUTHBOUND HWY 101 AT 16<sup>TH</sup> STREET.



**CLOSE EASTBOUND  
13<sup>TH</sup> AT RIVERSIDE**

**13<sup>TH</sup>/RIVERSIDE CLOSE AHEAD  
USE 10<sup>TH</sup> AND RIVERSIDE**

**13<sup>th</sup> Street**

**10<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Spring Street**

**Riverside**