

TO: James L. App, City Manager

FROM: Dick McKinley, Director of Public Works

**SUBJECT: Environmental Documents for
Union Road/Highway 46 East Intersection Improvements**

DATE: September 15, 2015

NEEDS: For City Council to consider engaging the services of Hatch Mott McDonald to prepare the next step for the improvements envisioned at the intersection of Union Road and Highway 46 East.

FACTS:

1. State 46 East is a major goods facility that connects the California Central Valley to the Central Coast and supports a variety of travel types including regional, inter-regional, commercial and recreational.
2. In 2007 the City, San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG), San Luis Obispo County, and Caltrans initiated and completed a Comprehensive Corridor Study (CCS) for a five mile section of Highway 46 East from about Buena Vista to Jardine Road.
3. The CCS study was the culmination of an 18 month planning process that included significant negotiations and collaborative decisions among Caltrans, the City, SLOCOG, and SLO County, as well as extensive public involvement.
4. The CCS study identified several improvement concepts for the portion of Highway 46 within the City limits that would enhance local connectivity, reduce congestion, and improve traffic movement and safety.
5. A major improvement identified in the CCS study was to address the intersection of Union Road and Highway 46, requiring construction of substantial road and/or interchange facilities. The study further recommended that right-of-way be preserved for future infrastructure improvements.
6. In order to preserve right-of-way, the City, Caltrans, and SLOCOG teamed up to prepare a Project Study Report (PSR).
7. In October 2009, the City drafted a Request for Proposals (RFP) soliciting consultants to perform the study. The City's draft was reviewed by Caltrans and SLOCOG, and in November 2010 the City issued the RFP to 15 firms. Four firms responded. Caltrans, SLOCOG and City staff reviewed the four proposals and two firms were invited for an interview.

The selection committee, consisting of Caltrans, SLOCOG, and City staff, determined that Hatch-Mott-MacDonald provided the best qualified proposal to provide the needed services.

**ANALYSIS &
CONCLUSION:**

In April 2014, Caltrans approved the Project Study Report (PSR). The next step is to prepare the environmental documents for approval. Hatch-Mott-MacDonald has provided a Scope of Services to complete this next step, with a fee of \$900,000.

**POLICY
REFERENCE:**

Circulation Element of the General Plan
Approved Project Study Report

**FISCAL
IMPACT:**

The City recently adopted the Capital Improvement Budget which shows \$950,000 allocated for this work. Funding sources are a SLOCOG grant in the amount of \$450,000 and a City match of \$500,000 from Traffic Impact Fees.

OPTIONS:

- a. Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Hatch-Mott-MacDonald to prepare the Project Approval Environmental Documents (PAED) aka environmental phase, for the improvements at Union Road and Highway 46E, in the amount of \$900,000 with a \$50,000 contingency.
- b. Amend, modify, or reject the above option.