



SOLANO TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Member Agencies:

Benicia ♦ Dixon ♦ Fairfield ♦ Rio Vista ♦ Suisun City ♦ Vacaville ♦ Vallejo ♦ Solano County

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 Email: info@sta.ca.gov ♦ Website: sta.ca.gov

December 7, 2015

Lucetta Dunn, Chair
California Transportation Commission
 1120 N Street, Room 2221 (MS-52)
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: STIP Allocation Request for the Solano County Jepson Parkway Project

Dear Chair Dunn:

I am writing on behalf of the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) to convey our request to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to allocate State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding for two segments of the Jepson Parkway Project in Solano County (Tab# 18, Ref# 4.8). Caltrans has confirmed these projects are Ready to List (RTL) and ready for an allocation vote in December 2015 by the CTC in order to be ready for the 2016 construction season.

This Project was initiated as part of the 1989 Strategic Transportation Planning Study, prepared by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). The Study evaluated the entire San Francisco Bay Area Freeway System, and identified the Jepson Parkway concept as a means to relieve congestion on Interstate 80 through Suisun City, Fairfield and Vacaville by diverting local traffic off of I-80 through an alternative route in Solano County. The Project provides for added capacity needs for I-80, through an award-winning complete streets concept, through an improved local roadway system without the more expensive freeway capacity improvement costs. This concept was further advanced in the 1990 Bay Area Freeway Reliever Routes Evaluation Report and the 1996 Interstate 80 Corridor Study, both also completed by MTC. As a result, this project has been a Solano County STIP priority since 2000.

The Jepson Parkway project will provide significant regional transportation benefits and will help maintain current levels of service on I-80. There are no parallel alternatives to Interstate 80 in Solano and Yolo Counties and the Jepson Parkway will provide such an alternative. The two project segments will also provide a Class 1 bike facility the length of the corridor, replace a bridge with matching federal High Priority Bridge (HPB) funds and provide the necessary access for motorists, transit, bicyclists and pedestrians to a new rail Capitol Corridor Passenger Rail Train Station currently under construction.

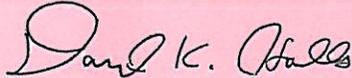
The Jepson Parkway project represents the culmination of more than 20 years of planning, environmental review, right of way negotiations, utility relocations, design and construction. Major segments of the Parkway have been constructed in both Vacaville and Fairfield using local, state and federal funding. For this Project, the STA has already acquired property, relocated businesses, and displaced a single occupancy home. The demolition of the buildings and home are currently underway in preparation for this construction allocation.

This is not a project in planning or design, it is a project that is ready for construction with a significant investment of local and regional funds to match the requested STIP funds. It is imperative that the CTC consider these facts and fully appreciate the potential impacts should we significantly delay or not complete the improvements as committed.

STA Ltr. to CTC Chair Lucetta Dunn dated December 7, 2015
RE: STIP Allocation Request for the Solano County Jepson Parkway Project

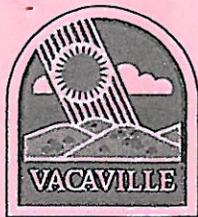
STA does understand the funding challenges for the STIP, but we strongly encourage the CTC honor the prior commitment to fund the completion of the Jepson Parkway and save the Fairfield, Vacaville, Suisun City, Solano County, Solano Transportation Authority and Metropolitan Transportation Commission from the loss of return on our large local investment we have made in support of the project. We look forward to working with the CTC to successfully deliver this project.

Sincerely,



Daryl Halls
STA Executive Director

cc: CTC Commissioners
The Honorable Jim Frazier, 11th Assembly District
The Honorable Bill Dodd, 4th Assembly District
The Honorable Lois Wolk, 3rd Senate District
STA Board Members
Steve Heminger, MTC, Executive Director
Laura Kuhn, City of Vacaville, City Manager
David White, City of Fairfield, City Manager



CITY OF VACAVILLE

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Vice Mayor

DILENNA HARRIS
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MITCH MASHBURN
Councilmember

RON ROWLETT
Councilmember

ESTABLISHED 1850

December 8, 2015

Office of the Mayor

Lucetta Dunn, Chair
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: STIP Allocation Request for the Solano County Jepson Parkway Project

Dear Chair Dunn:

The City of Vacaville was notified this month by the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) that due to a significant funding gap in the current 2015/2016 STIP, certain programmed projects are unlikely to be funded as originally approved by the CTC. I understand from my staff that based on recent conversations with STA and MTC, the Jepson Parkway project is in jeopardy of not receiving its CTC allocation for FY15/16, and that quite possibly the worsening shortfall could continue through 20/21 making future funding uncertain at best. This is of grave concern to the City of Vacaville as we have expended considerable capital on the planning and design of this important regional transportation project over the past 20 years. Not only has the City committed and expended a significant amount of local transportation dollars toward the Jepson Parkway, but we have made commitments to our residents as well as property owners immediately adjacent to the parkway that have constructed portions of the improvements, deposited funds to contribute to the improvements and/or are dependent upon the improvements. In fact, the environmental impact reports for the cumulative Southtown developments along the Jepson Parkway corridor relied upon the improvement of Jepson Parkway to mitigate the projected traffic impacts related to the various subdivisions. These developers paid Traffic Development Impact Fees (TIF) to the City as a condition of their individual project approvals. The TIF collected by the City is being applied to the Jepson Parkway project as local matching funds.

We understand that, in addressing this shortfall, the CTC is considering giving priority to "on-system" state highway projects. The traffic study prepared to support the 2005 Project Technical Report for the Jepson Parkway identified 11 freeway segments on Interstate 80, between Highway 12 and Interstate 505, operating below LOS D in the afternoon peak hour.

That study projected the LOS to decrease to F on six of the segments and E on one segment by 2030. The 1989 Strategic Transportation Planning Study, prepared by MTC, which evaluated the entire San Francisco Bay Area Freeway System, identified the concept of the Jepson Parkway as a means to relieve congestion on Interstate 80 through Fairfield and Vacaville by diverting traffic and providing an alternative route for local traffic through Solano County. That concept was further advanced in the 1990 Bay Area Freeway Reliever Routes Evaluation Report and the 1996 Interstate 80 Corridor Study, both also completed by MTC. As a result, this project has been a Solano County STIP priority since 2000.

The Jepson Parkway project has regional transportation benefits and will improve, or at least maintain current levels of service on Interstate 80. As you know, unlike the southern California freeway system, there are no legitimate alternatives to Interstate 80 in Solano and Yolo Counties. The Jepson Parkway project provides an alternative; and we urge the CTC to consider this important fact in assigning priorities to the limited funding.

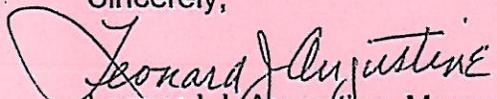
The Jepson Parkway project represents the culmination of more than 20 years of planning, environmental review, right of way negotiations, utility relocations, design, and construction. Funding impacts should be a key consideration in CTC's efforts to prioritize STIP projects. Of primary concern to Vacaville is the fact that there is \$3.2 million of Highway Bridge Program (HBP) funding allocated to this project for the replacement of the new Alamo Creek bridge. Without the balance of the roadway improvements to complement it, that portion of the project and the associated HBP funding is potentially at risk. Further consider that major segments of the Jepson Parkway project have already been constructed in both Vacaville and Fairfield using local, state, and federal funding. For the current Vacaville segment of the Jepson Parkway, \$5 million has been expended to date, including over \$2 million in local funds, over \$2 million of STIP, and over \$300k of PG&E Rule 20A funds. Southtown developers have expended approximately \$1.5 million between actual construction of Jepson Parkway along their frontage and deferred improvement fees deposited to the City for construction of Jepson Parkway. For the City of Vacaville, this project has actually been under construction for the past year. In the past 12 months, the City has relocated a local irrigation canal, PG&E overhead facilities, and made improvements on private property to accommodate the project. In addition, the City has purchased and demolished private residences in anticipation of the Jepson Parkway project.

With this letter, as the Mayor of the City of Vacaville, I am urging the CTC to carefully consider these facts and fully appreciate the potential impacts should you not follow through with your commitment to fund this important transportation project. In making your decision to prioritize on-system projects, take into consideration the fact that the MTC has published documents identifying the Jepson Parkway as a vital component to improve mobility along the congested

Interstate 80 corridor through Solano County. Jepson Parkway is a **solution** to failing levels of service on Interstate 80, it is more than just a local road project. Jepson Parkway provides a truly alternative mean for commuters to traverse the northern portion of Solano County that does not currently exist.

Feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss this further, (707) 449-5100.

Sincerely,


Leonard J. Augustine, Mayor
City of Vacaville

c: CTC Commissioners
The Honorable Jim Frazier, 11th Assembly District
The Honorable Bill Dodd, 4th Assembly District
The Honorable Lois Wolk, 3rd Assembly District
STA Board Members
Steve Heminger, MTC, Executive Director
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