

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

654A



**FROM:** TLMA - Transportation Department

**SUBMITTAL DATE:** February 14, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Van Buren Blvd. Raised Median Safety Project - Washington St. to Orange Terrace Parkway – Project Approval and Environmental Determination.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

That the Board approve the proposed Van Buren Blvd. Raised Median Safety Project and adopt a Notice of Exemption for the Environmental Determination.

**BACKGROUND:**

Van Buren Boulevard has been developed over a long period of time, without a guiding standard to direct access control considerations, especially along its easterly limits. It is one of the key regional north-south and east-west transportation corridors, linking Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties with Western Riverside County. The Van Buren corridor serves as an arterial link from the I-15/SR 60 to the I-215, via the unincorporated Glen Avon, Mira Loma, and Jurupa Areas through the City of Riverside, easterly to the Woodcrest/Orange Crest Areas, and on to the March Air Reserve Base. The transportation corridor also provides a link to the adjacent Cities of Moreno Valley and Perris, via I-215. The fronting properties have grown over the past twenty or thirty years, with many businesses located within the proposed project limits. Additional development is currently in progress along the corridor, including significant residential and commercial development located east of Trautwein Road.

(continued)

George A. Johnson  
Director of Transportation

**FINANCIAL DATA:**

<b>CURRENT YEAR COST</b>	\$ 1,650,000.00	<b>ANNUAL COST:</b>	\$ 0
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	\$ N.A.	<b>IN CURRENT YEAR BUDGET:</b>	Yes <b>X</b> / No
		<b>BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FY:</b>	Yes / No <b>X</b>

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:** STIP, Gas Tax

Policy  
 Policy  
 Consent  
 Consent  
 Department Recommendation:  
 Per Executive Office:

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

**APPROVE**

County Executive Office Signature

03 FEB 13 11:51:52

Prev. Agn. ref.

Dist. 1

AGENDA NO.

**3.32**

There is an urgent need for safety improvements along this corridor. There have been 300 collisions along this segment of Van Buren Boulevard within the past three years. These include 10 fatalities and 113 injury collisions (203 persons injured). The collision rate is nearly double the Statewide average for this type of facility. The fatality and injury rate is nearly 3 times the Statewide rate for this type of facility. Over 40% of the accidents are attributed to right-of-way violations (vehicles turning in and out of driveways and intersections), and another 20% due to left turns from Van Buren onto driveways and intersections. Many of these types of accidents could be reduced by a raised median. A recent traffic count on Van Buren Boulevard, west of Wood Road, has shown 35,400 Average Daily Traffic (ADT).

The County of Riverside Transportation Department proposes the construction of a raised concrete median along a section of Van Buren Boulevard, both in unincorporated Riverside County and in the City of Riverside. The median will be constructed between Washington Street and Wood Road, and between Trautwein Road and Orange Terrace Parkway to serve as a barrier and channelizer that controls access to adjacent businesses, while preventing crossover and sideswipe type collisions.

This project includes the installation of two traffic signals (one at the Woodcrest Plaza driveway, and one at the ACE Center driveway) to provide for ingress/egress into shopping areas, and minimize traffic conflicts at the main intersections at Washington St. and at Wood Road. This project also includes the installation of bus turnouts at about a dozen locations, depending on funding availability.

The project competed for and successfully obtained Federal funding. Federal funds have been allocated for this fiscal year for the project, and we are proceeding to secure the funding allocation through the California Transportation Commission (CTC) this Summer. However, it should be noted that the Federal funds approved for this project are part of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Given the State budget picture, there is a possibility that the CTC will either not approve the funding for this project or defer it to a future year. The Transportation Department will continue to monitor the STIP funding for this project and advise the Board of its availability prior to award of a construction contract.

This project requires an environmental review which meets the requirements of both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Department has determined that this project meets the criteria for a categorical exemption, and proposes to adopt an exemption for this project.