



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www.CityofSacramento.org

Consent
September 18, 2007

**Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council**

Title: Howe Avenue Bridges Study

Location/Council District: The Howe Avenue bridges over University Avenue, both northbound and southbound. Location map – Exhibit A of Resolution (Districts 3 & 6).

Recommendation: Adopt a **Resolution:** 1) authorizing staff to submit funding applications to Caltrans for funding from the Highway Bridge Program, 2) establishing a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for the Howe Avenue Bridges Project (PN: RR65), 3) authorizing the City Manager to execute a Program Supplement for the Howe Avenue Bridges Project (PN: RR65) when received by staff, and 4) amending the FY07/08 Capital Improvement Program by transferring \$75,000 from TX01 (Fund 209) and appropriating, when the federal paperwork is approved, \$425,000 (Fund 511) to the Howe Avenue Bridges Project (PN: RR65).

Contact: Ryan Moore, Senior Engineer, (916) 808-8279; Tim Mar, Supervising Engineer, (916) 808-7531

Presenters: None

Department: Transportation

Division: Engineering Services

Organization No: 3435

Description/Analysis

Issue: Recent Caltrans bridge inspections have identified the existing Howe Avenue bridges over University Avenue, both northbound and southbound, as being structurally deficient and eligible for federal funding for replacement. Staff is requesting Council approval to apply for federal funding to prepare a study to fully assess the condition of the bridges, and develop an appropriate course of action.

Policy Considerations: This study will identify projects that, in accordance with the City Council Strategic Plan, will improve and expand public safety.

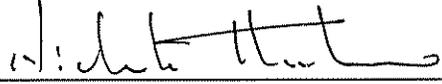
Environmental Considerations: Applying for grant funding, establishing a CIP, and appropriation of funds is not subject to the provision of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Under CEQA general rule 15061-B-3, CEQA

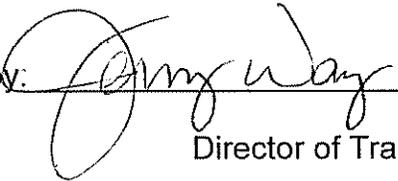
applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. This study will have no effect on the environment, thus it is not subject to CEQA.

Rationale for Recommendation: The existing Howe Avenue bridges over University Avenue, both northbound and southbound, were recently identified as structurally deficient and eligible for federal funding for replacement. This most recent inspection took place in July of 2006. The previous inspection, in March of 2004, did not identify either bridge as being a high priority for replacement. The structural inspection indicates that the condition of the deck (wearing surface) appears to be the primary reason for the downgrade of the bridge's sufficiency rating. This condition does not affect the structural stability of these concrete bridges and there is no risk of collapse. However, because of the substantial down-grade in the assessment of the structural condition of these bridges by Caltrans, the Department of Transportation wishes to prepare a study to fully assess the condition and to determine an appropriate course of action.

Financial Considerations: This project is eligible for federal funding as part of the *Highway Bridge Program (HBP)*. All participating costs are eligible for federal reimbursement at a rate of 88.53%. The City is responsible for the local match and non-participating costs. Staff estimates that the total cost of the study would be approximately \$500,000. Transferring \$75,000 from Federal and State Matching funds (PN: TX01) (Fund 209) and appropriating \$425,000 from Federal Grant funds (Fund 511) will allow the project to begin preliminary engineering. At the conclusion of the study, staff will recommend funding of future phases if needed.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): None, since no goods or services are being procured with this action.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Nicholas Theocharides
Engineering Services Manager

Approved by: 
Jerry Way
Director of Transportation

Recommendation Approved:

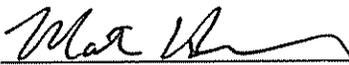

Ray RAY KERRIDGE
City Manager

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Attachment 1**Background**

In recent decades, the primary financing mechanism for the replacement and rehabilitation of bridge structures in California has been the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Highway Bridge Program (HBP). In California, the HBP is administered by Caltrans. HBP funds are available on an 88.53% federal contribution to 11.47% local match basis.

Staff is recommending the City submit an application for two bridges to this program. The primary funding criteria for this program is inadequate structural sufficiency and/or functional obsolescence, as defined by Caltrans and FHWA. Staff used the criteria as well as the *Transportation Programming Guide (TPG) – Bridge Section* to select the projects for submittal. These bridges were ranked No. 8 and No. 22 in the 2006 TPG. The recent down grade as a result of the 2006 Caltrans inspection will cause these structures to be re-ranked in the 2008 TPG at No. 3 and No. 4.

The primary reason for an independent study of the Howe Avenue bridges over University Avenue, both northbound and southbound, is to address the significant down grade in structural sufficiency observed by Caltrans in their latest inspections. This study will provide independent inspections of both bridges, as well as perform non-destructive testing, seismic evaluation, and an evaluation of the functionality of the existing structures. This study will also consider the design life of the structures, and make a determination of whether a rehabilitation project or a replacement project is more prudent.

The Department of Transportation envisions hiring a consultant to perform a phased study, likely to include (1) testing & inspection (2) research options and develop alternatives and (3) refine a preferred alternative and make final recommendations.

Attachment 2

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ESTABLISH A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO PREPARE A STUDY OF THE HOWE AVENUE BRIDGES AT UNIVERSITY AVENUE (NORTHBOUND & SOUTHBOUND)

BACKGROUND

- A. The primary financing mechanism for the replacement and rehabilitation of bridge structures in California has been the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Highway Bridge Program (HBP).
- B. HBP funds are available on an 88.53% federal contribution to 11.47% local match basis.
- C. Staff is recommending the City submit an application for the Howe Avenue bridges at University Avenue, both northbound and southbound, to this program.
- D. Staff is recommending an independent study of the Howe Avenue bridges to determine how to proceed after their latest Caltrans bridge inspections, which showed a drastic reduction in their structural sufficiency ratings.
- E. The Department of Transportation envisions hiring a consultant to perform a phased study including: (1) testing & inspection (2) research options and develop alternatives and (3) refine a preferred alternative and final recommendations.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. Staff is authorized to submit applications for funding to the Highway Bridge Program for the bridges on Howe Avenue over University Avenue, both the northbound and southbound.
- Section 2. The Howe Avenue Bridges Project (PN: RR65) is established as a new Capital Improvement Project.
- Section 3. The City Manager is authorized to execute a Program Supplement for the Howe Avenue Bridges Project (PN: RR65) when received by staff.

Section 4. The FY07/08 Capital Improvement Program is amended by transferring \$75,000 from TX01 (Fund 209) and appropriating, when the federal paperwork is approved, \$425,000 (Fund 511) to the Howe Avenue Bridges Project (PN: RR65).

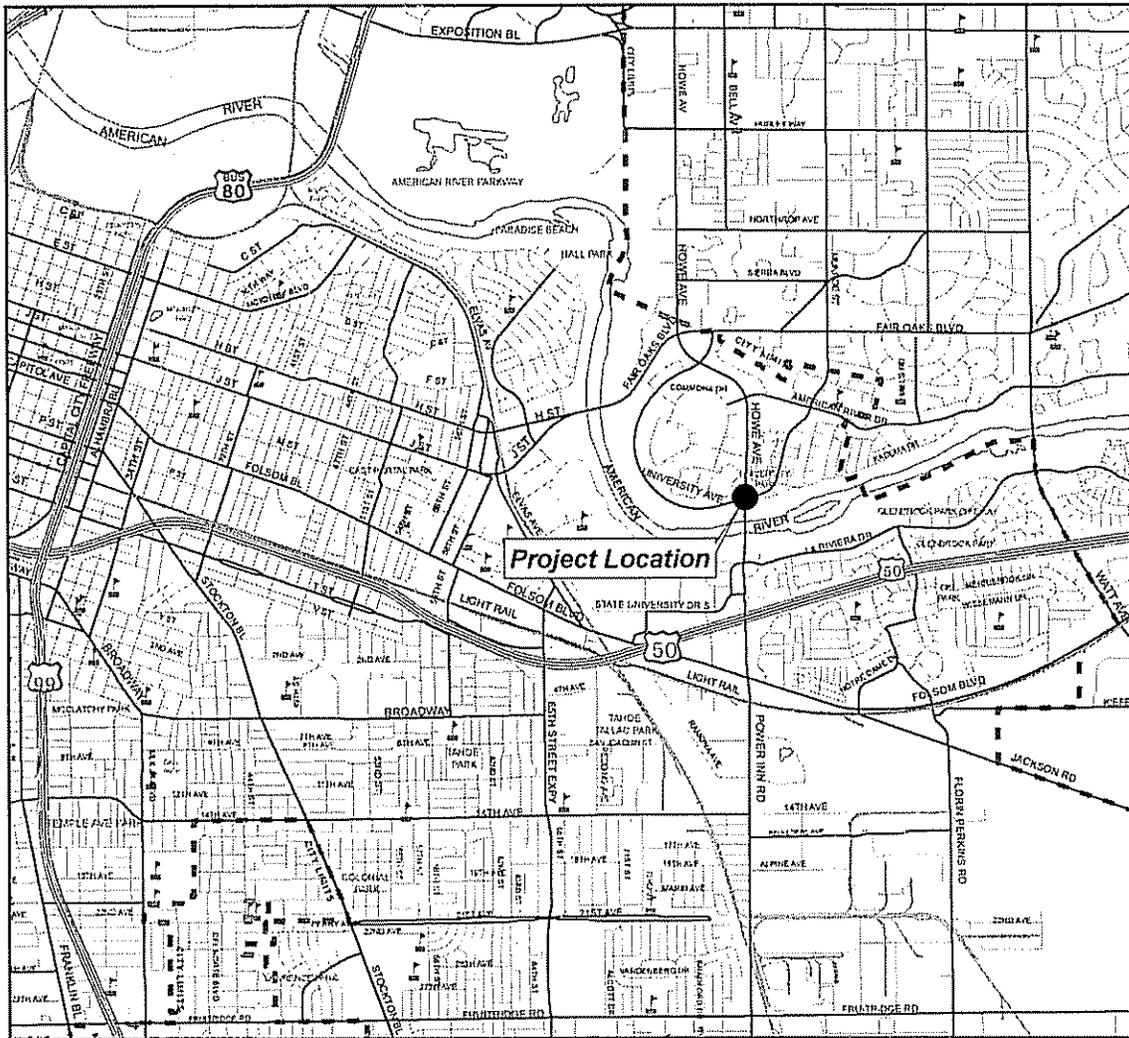
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Exhibit A: Map of Howe Avenue Bridges at University Avenue

EXHIBIT A

Location Map for

Howe Avenue Bridge Study



Department of
TRANSPORTATION
City of Sacramento

Map Contact: S Tobin
Map Date: August, 2007

