REPORT TO COUNCIL
City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671
www. CityofSacramento.org

STAFF REPORT
August 16, 2005

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Subject: Inderkum High School Sidewalks Improvements (Natomas Boulevard Widening Project – PN: TR96)

Location/Council District: Natomas Boulevard between North Bend Drive and New Market Drive; Location map - Exhibit A of Resolution. (District 1)

Recommendation:

Adopt a Resolution 1) appropriating $200,000 (780-710-7012) from the North Natomas Community Improvement Fund to the Natomas Boulevard Widening Project (PN: TR96) for the construction of sidewalks on Natomas Boulevard between North Bend and New Market Drive, and 2) directing Staff to respond to the Sacramento Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations.

Contact: Saed Hasan, Senior Engineer, 808-7923
Hector Barron, Supervising Engineer, 808-2669
Carol Shearly, Manager, New Growth Division, 808-5893

Presenters: Saed Hasan, Senior Engineer
Hector Barron, Supervising Engineer

Department: Department of Transportation

Division: Engineering Services

Organization No: 3435

Summary:

Staff requests that the City Council approve the appropriation of $200,000 from the North Natomas Community Improvement Fund (Fund 780) to the Natomas Boulevard Widening Project (PN: TR96). In response to the County of Sacramento Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations to provide sidewalks on Natomas Boulevard between North Bend Drive and New Market Drive, staff is proposing to construct these sidewalks as Phase 1 of the Natomas Boulevard Widening Project (PN: TR96) by September 30, 2005. Staff is also proposing to respond, by way of letter, to the Sacramento Grand Jury.

Committee/Commission Action:

None.

Background Information:

On June 30, 2005 a Sacramento County Grand Jury found that student safety, is in jeopardy because of the lack of a completed pedestrian pathway along Natomas Boulevard from North Bend to New Market Drive on the west side. The Grand Jury recommended that the City provide the missing walkway by August 22, 2005 and to provide a response back to them by September 30, 2005. A copy of the Grand Jury's Findings is shown in Attachment A.

In response to the Grand Jury recommendations, staff is proposing to respond to the Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations as shown in Exhibit B and to phase the Natomas Boulevard Widening Project (PN: TR96) into two phases. Phase 1 of the project will construct the planned sidewalk by September 30, 2005 on the west side of Natomas Boulevard from New Market Drive to North Bend Drive. The rest of the planned improvements, which are not part of the Grand Jury recommendations, will be completed in the Summer/Fall of 2006. The proposed sidewalk will be a multi use path on the eastern edge of the North Natomas Regional Park similar to the existing path north of North Bend Drive.

On June 28, 2005, the City Council authorized the establishment of the Natomas Boulevard Widening Project (PN: TR96) and appropriated funds to begin environmental review and project design. Constructing Phase 1 of the project will satisfy the Grand Jury recommendations. However, due to the extensive work that is needed to provide accessible sidewalks and the short notice given to the City, the sidewalks cannot be completed prior to September 30, 2005.

Financial Considerations:

This project is funded by North Natomas development fees as provided for in the North Natomas Financing Plan. The current project budget is $200,000 which covers project design. The estimated cost to complete the sidewalk improvements is $200,000. The current request will provide $200,000 from the North Natomas Community Improvement Fund balance to the Natomas Boulevard Widening Project (PN: TR96) which will bring the total project budget to $400,000.

Environmental Considerations:

The requested action for funding is not subject to the provision of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under the general rule (15061(b)(3)) that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. This proposed improvements are consistent with the North Natomas Community Plan, adopted by City Council on May 3, 1994. Environmental review to

comply with CEQA requirements will be completed prior to award of contract for this project.

Policy Considerations:

This project is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan goals of improving the transportation system and enhancing and preserving neighborhoods.

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: _____

Marty Hanneman
Director, Department of Transportation

Recommendation Approved:

_____

ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager

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Student Safety Walking To Inderkum High School

Issue

Is there a safe path of travel along Natomas Boulevard for students walking to Inderkum High School?

Reason for the Investigation

It was brought to the attention of the Sacramento County Grand Jury that there was not a completed pedestrian pathway to Inderkum High School from North Park Drive to New Market Drive on the west side of Natomas Boulevard. Students must cross Natomas Boulevard at several points along their route to the high school in order to stay on a sidewalk. However, it was noticed that some students take the shorter way and walk along Natomas Boulevard next to automobile traffic. The Grand Jury believed it was important to investigate when a complete walkway would be constructed providing sidewalks for the high school students.

Method of Investigation

The following individuals were interviewed:

- Principal of Inderkum High School
- Vice Principal of Inderkum High School
- Manager of New Growth Division – Sacramento Development Services Department
- Assistant City Manager and Director for Development Services

The following documents were reviewed:

- North Natomas Financing Plan
- Natomas Boulevard Improvement table

In addition, several members of the Grand Jury walked the route. (See map on page 38).

Background and Facts

The Grand Jury opened an investigation to determine what the future plan was for students to be able to walk to Inderkum High School in a safe and logical manner. At various places along Natomas Boulevard between North Park Drive and New Market Drive, sidewalks end in an abrupt manner, not connecting to either a crosswalk or pavement. On the west and east side between Del Paso Road and New Market Drive walkways are complete. From New Market to Inderkum High School on the south side there is also a completed sidewalk. There is no sidewalk from New Market to Inderkum High School on the north side and from New Market to North Bend on the west side. From North Bend to a walkway along the collection pond there is an area of about 35 feet where there is no walkway. At that point students must go to the crosswalk at North Bend, cross Natomas, continue on the east side to New Market, cross again and continue to Inderkum High School. From North Bend to North Park on the east side, there is a sidewalk.

Inderkum High School opened in September 2004 with approximately 700 students. When the school adds another grade for the 2005-2006 school year, the projected enrollment is 1100 students, more than a 50 percent increase. The posted speed limit along Natomas Boulevard is 45 miles per hour but it has been observed that traffic frequently exceeds 45 miles per hour. Students do not always cross at the marked crosswalks, but tend to walk on the non-paved areas which are unsafe and become muddy and very slippery in inclement weather. With the increased student population there is a greatly expanded risk of a student being injured.

Findings and Recommendations

Finding 1. Student safety is in jeopardy because there is not a completed pedestrian pathway along Natomas Boulevard from North Bend to New Market on the west side.

Recommendation 1. In the interest of student safety, paved access in these areas needs to be completed.

Finding 2. The City has plans and the appropriate finances in the 2005-2006 budget to complete the pedestrian pathways sometime during the 2005-2006 fiscal year, but that may not occur until June 2006.

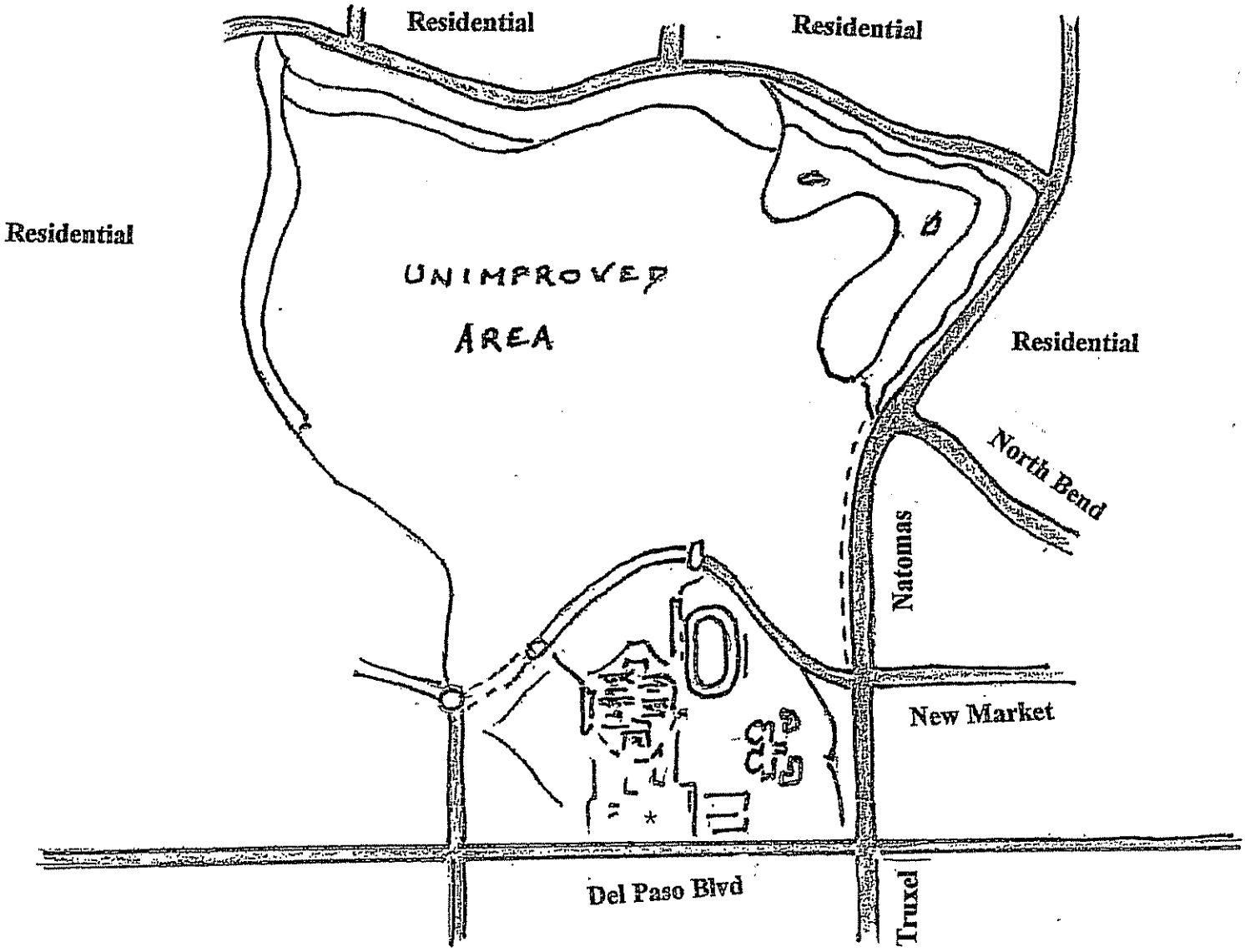
Recommendation 2. The City needs to ensure the completion of these areas to be used by students is done by the start of the school year, August 22, 2005.

Response Requirements

Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05 require that specific responses to both the findings and recommendations contained in this report be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Sacramento Superior Court by September 30, 2005, from:

- **Sacramento City Council, Findings 1, 2 and Recommendations 1, 2.**

INDERKUM HIGH SCHOOL AND VICINITY



*Inderkum High School complex
Legend ---------- no sidewalk

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

APPROVING THE APPROPRIATION OF $200,000 FROM THE NORTH NATOMAS COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT FUND (780-710-7012) TO THE NATOMAS BOULEVARD WIDENING PROJECT (PN: TR96) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS ON THE WEST SIDE OF NATOMAS BOULEVARD BETWEEN NORTH BEND AND NEW MARKET DRIVE

BACKGROUND

A. On June 30, 2005 a Sacramento County Grand Jury found that student safety is in jeopardy because of the lack of a completed pedestrian pathway along the west side of Natomas Boulevard between North Bend and New Market Drive.

B. The Grand Jury recommended that the City provide the sidewalk improvements by August 22, 2005, and a response back to the Grand Jury by September 30, 2005.

C. Staff is proposing to phase the Natomas Boulevard Widening Project (PN: TR96) into two phases. Phase 1 of the project will construct the sidewalk improvements on the west side of Natomas Boulevard from New Market Drive to North Bend Drive (location shown on Exhibit A – Map) by September 30, 2005, and Phase 2 will provide the remaining improvements in the Summer of 2006.

D. The total cost for Phase 1 is approximately $200,000.

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

Section 1. The FY 05/06 Capital Improvement Program budget is amended by appropriating $200,000 (780-710-7012) from the North Natomas Community Improvement Fund to the Natomas Boulevard Widening Project (PN: TR96).

Section 2. Staff is directed to respond to the Sacramento Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations (Exhibit B).

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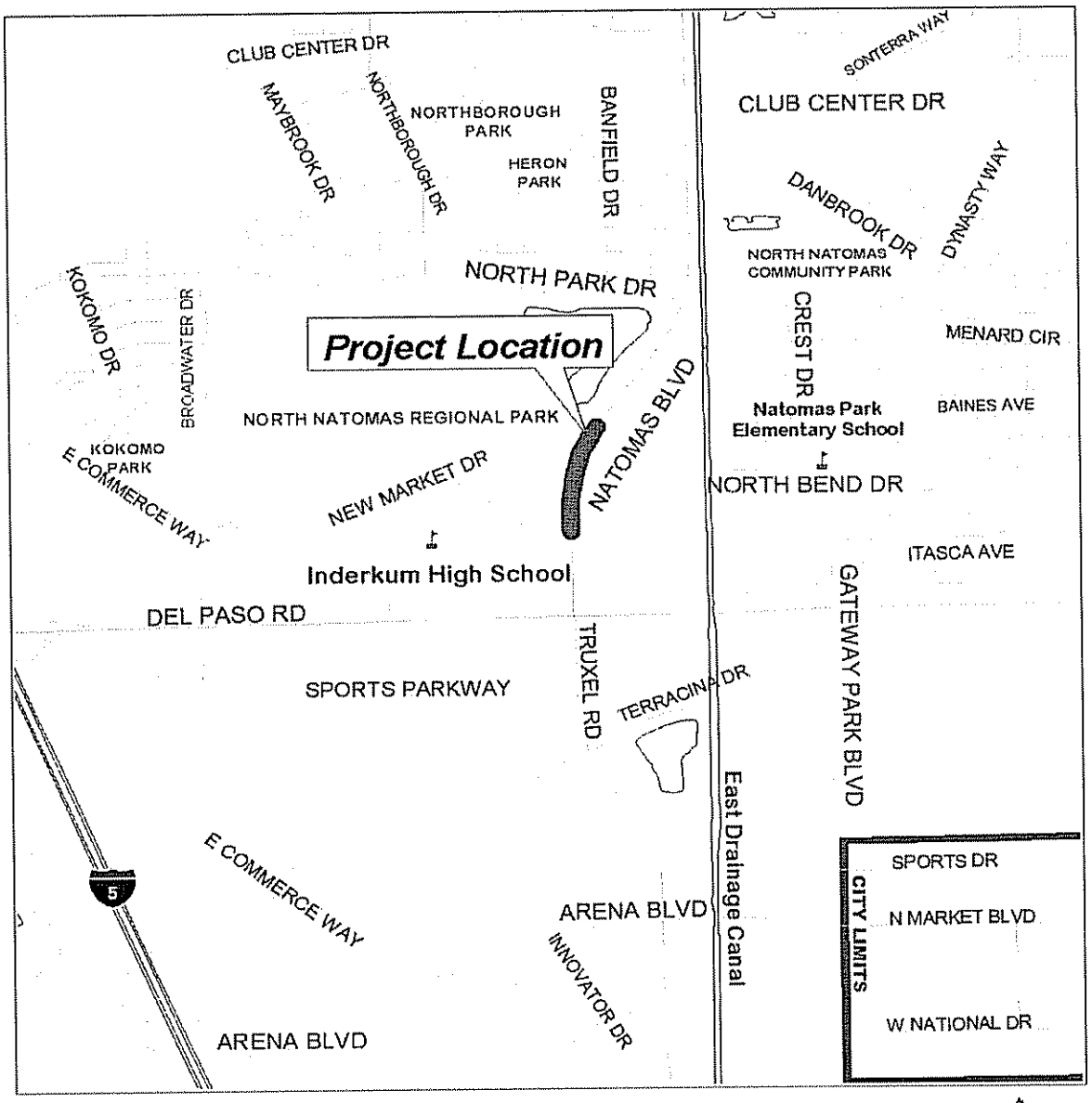
Exhibit A: Map of Natomas Boulevard Improvements Ph. 1 (PN: TR96) – 1 page
Exhibit B: Response to Grand Jury letter – 2 pages

EXHIBIT A

Location Map for

NATOMAS BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENTS PH.I (PN:TR96)

Inderkum High School Sidewalk Improvements
North Bend Drive to New Market Drive



Map Contact S Tobin
Map Date July 2005

Department of TRANSPORTATION City of Sacramento

500 0 500 1000 Feet

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DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

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SACRAMENTO, CA
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Exhibit B

August 16, 2005

Response to the Sacramento County Grand Jury
Re: Student Safety Walking to Inderkum High School

Location: Inderkum High School is located at the northwest corner of Del Paso Road and Natomas Boulevard in North Natomas. Inderkum High School opened to 9th and 10th graders on August 19, 2004.

Issue: The Sacramento County Grand Jury investigated the issue of a safe path of travel along Natomas Boulevard for students walking to Inderkum High School.

Reason for Investigation: The reason for the investigation was that there was not a completed pedestrian pathway to Inderkum High School from North Park Drive to New Market Drive on the west side of Natomas Boulevard. Students sometimes cross to the east side of Natomas Boulevard where there is an existing sidewalk. However, some students take the shorter way and walk along Natomas Boulevard next to the automobile traffic. The Grand Jury wanted to know when a complete pedestrian walkway would be constructed providing sidewalks for the high school students.

Findings and Recommendations;

Finding #1: Student safety is in jeopardy because there is not a completed pedestrian pathway along Natomas Boulevard from North Bend to New Market on the west side.

Recommendation #1: In the interest of student safety, paved access in these areas needs to be completed.

City's Response to Finding #1 and Recommendation #1: As pointed out in the Grand Jury report, construction of the pedestrian path is included in the 2005-2006 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as part of a larger project. In response to the Grand Jury's recommendation, the City will design and construct the project improvements in phases so that the sidewalk improvements can be constructed as early as possible.

Finding #2: The City has plans and the appropriate finances in the 2005-2006 budget to complete the pedestrian pathways sometime during the 2005-2006 fiscal year, but that may not occur until June 2006.

Recommendation #2: The City needs to ensure the completion of these areas to be used by students is done by the start of the school year, August 22, 2005.

City's Response to Finding #2 and Recommendation #2: The City will complete the sidewalk between North Bend and New Market by September 30, 2005, which is the earliest practicable time the improvements can be completed.