

2014 Council Study Issue

DPW 14 - 13 Scoping of Grade Separations at Mary Avenue and Sunnyvale Avenue

Lead Department Department of Public Works

Sponsor(s) Councilmembers Whittum, Meyering

History 1 year ago: 2 years ago:

1. Scope of the Study

a. What are the key elements of the study?

This study would evaluate grade separation of the current at-grade crossings of Caltrain at Mary Avenue and Sunnyvale Avenue. The study would identify alternatives, costs, and limitations; over vs. under separation; right-of-way requirements; roadway operations, and potential environmental issues. Alternative concepts such as commute-hour reversible lanes could be considered. Commute hour capacity improvement due to grade separation would be evaluated to determine if roadway reconfiguration/lane reduction could be considered as an economizing measure.

b. What precipitated this study?

There is a perception that significant congestion and queuing results from commute hour crossing gate downtime. This may be exacerbated in the future with increased train frequency. Safety is a concern.

c. Is this a multiple year project? Yes Planned Completion Year
2015

2. Fiscal Impact

a. Cost to Conduct Study

i. Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost)

Major Moderate Minor

ii. Amount of funding above current budget required \$ 450,000

Will seek budget supplement Will seek grant
funding

iii. Explanation of Cost:

Consultant services for conceptual design, cost estimating, environmental evaluation, and public outreach

b. Costs to Implement Study Results

- No cost to implement.
- Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs.
- Some cost to implement. Explanation:

3. **Expected participation in the process**

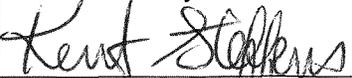
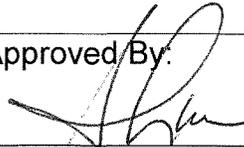
- Council-approved work plan
- Council Study Session
- Board/Commission Review by BPAC, Planning Commission

4. **Staff Recommendation**

a. Position: Drop

b. Explanation: Many of the issues proposed to be examined are currently being evaluated by Caltrain as part of a modernization project or have been evaluated by the California High Speed Rail Authority. Impacts of gate downtime, alternative grade separation configurations, and right of way impacts have all been studied or are under study. While the proposed study by Sunnyvale would go into greater detail, many conclusions can currently be deduced from available information.

As an alternative to pursuing this study issue, staff recommends that a study session with Council be scheduled to share information from existing studies.

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| Reviewed By: | Approved By: |
|  12-9-13 |  12-12-13 |
| Department Director Date | City Manager Date |