

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

DEPT: Public Works

BOARD AGENDA: 6.C.1
AGENDA DATE: January 23, 2018

SUBJECT:

Approval to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Carpenter Road and Whitmore Avenue Intersection Improvement Project

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-0050

On motion of Supervisor Withrow, Seconded by Supervisor Chiesa
and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: Olsen, Chiesa, Withrow, Monteith, and Chairman DeMartini
Noes: Supervisors: None
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None
Abstaining: Supervisor: None

- 1) Approved as recommended
- 2) Denied
- 3) Approved as amended
- 4) Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST: 
ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Public Works

BOARD AGENDA:6.C.1
AGENDA DATE: January 23, 2018

CONSENT:

CEO CONCURRENCE:

4/5 Vote Required: No

SUBJECT:

Approval to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Carpenter Road and Whitmore Avenue Intersection Improvement Project

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15074(B), by finding that on the basis of the whole record, including the Initial Study and any comments received, there is no substantial evidence the project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects Stanislaus County's independent judgment and analysis.
2. Direct the Department of Public Works to file a Notice of Determination with the Stanislaus County Clerk Recorder's office pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15075.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of the Carpenter Road at Whitmore Avenue Project is to improve traffic safety and flow through the intersection for current and future traffic conditions, while minimizing the impacts of these improvements on adjacent lands and facilities to the extent feasible. The project is being pursued under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program. The objective of the CMAQ program is to support surface transportation projects and other related efforts that contribute to air quality improvements and provide congestion relief.

The project site is located approximately 0.75 miles southwest of the City of Modesto. The project proposes to install a traffic signal at the existing Carpenter Road at Whitmore Avenue intersection. The intersection would be widened to accommodate existing and projected traffic, and to provide lane transitions and shoulder area. Each approach would provide a left-turn pocket and a through and right turn lane. Widening and required transitions would extend from the intersection center approximately 1,200 feet in all directions. The improved roadway sections would be restriped and signed in accordance with County and State standards.

To accommodate lane transitions on the southbound Carpenter Road approach, the project would replace an existing bridge that crosses TID Lateral No. 1 with a box culvert. The project would require grading of the existing undeveloped County right-of-way. Existing pavement areas may be removed and replaced or rehabilitated. Road

construction would involve excavation to establish subgrades for roadway reconstruction, road widening, and sign and signal structure foundations.

The completed project would require approximately 72,400 square feet of additional right-of-way, and temporary construction easements may be required for planned staging areas. The project will require removal of existing roadside vegetation within the existing right-of-way, and removal of orchard trees in the acquired right-of-way. Some existing utility poles with attached overhead utility lines will require relocation, along with possibly relocating an existing natural gas pipeline.

Public Works staff recommends that the Board adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15074(B), by finding that on the basis of the whole record, including the Initial Study and any comments received, there is no substantial evidence the project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects Stanislaus County's independent judgment and analysis. A detailed list of mitigated measures can be found in Appendix E of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (ISMND).

Pursuant to CEQA, a Notice of Availability of Initial Study and a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration were published in the Modesto Bee newspaper on October 11, 2017 and circulated to various agencies and to the public. Public circulation of the environmental document for the Project occurred from October 11, 2017 to November 9, 2017. All comments have been incorporated into the ISMND. Any additions or corrections to the ISMND subsequent to public comments have been addressed within the document.

Upon adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Caltrans' approval of the National Environmental Policy Act compliance, Public Works will continue with the final design of the project. Construction is anticipated to begin in the winter of 2018.

POLICY ISSUE:

Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15074(B), the Board of Supervisors is required to adopt the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration prior to filing a Notice of Determination.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost to file the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is \$2,338 (\$2,281 filing, \$57 administrative fee). Fees will be paid through a combination of Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds and County Public Facilities Fees (PFF) funds. Funding is included in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Public Works Road Projects Adopted Budget.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:

The recommended actions are consistent with the Board's priority of *Delivering Efficient Public Services and Infrastructure* by reducing congestion and improving air quality for the traveling public.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Existing Public Works staff is overseeing this project.

CONTACT PERSON:

Matt Machado, Public Works Director

Telephone: (209) 525-4153

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration

**Initial Study
Mitigated
Negative
Declaration**

(Available from Clerk)