

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	6/28/11
SUBJECT:	Amendment #1 to the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)
AGENDA ITEM:	8
STAFF CONTACT:	Dan Little

SUMMARY:

Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds are available to assist the City of Redding in providing matching funds for the Diestelhorst Bridge Restoration. If approved, RTPA funds previously held for this purpose can be redirected to start the environmental process for the next phase to widen Interstate 5 (I-5) to six lanes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board approve Amendment #1 to the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to add \$350,000 in TE funds for the Diestelhorst Bridge Restoration Project.

DISCUSSION:

TE projects are non-motorized transportation projects including sidewalks, bike lanes and restoration of historic structures. Due to low delivery of TE projects statewide, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) is allowing new projects. The City of Redding is currently in the design phase of a project to restore the Diestelhorst Bridge over the Sacramento River. The restoration project was approved with federal funds as part of the new Court Street Bridge construction immediately downstream. The restoration project requires local matching funds of approximately \$350,000.

The RTPA has been holding approximately \$320,000 of state transportation funds for this purpose. If the RTPA can secure TE funds for the match, the \$320,000 can be redirected to begin the state and federal environmental process for the next phase to widen I-5 to six lanes. This is a critical step in securing future I-5 grants. The action to redirect these funds would occur at a later RTPA meeting once it is known if the TE funds are approved by the CTC.

ALTERNATIVES:

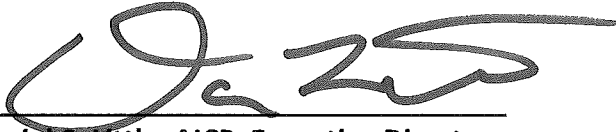
The board may take no action. The existing \$320,000 in RTPA funds would be used as match for the Diestelhorst Bridge Restoration Project. The region would need to wait for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding to begin the environmental process for the next phase of the I-5 expansion. It is estimated this would delay I-5 project development by five years.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) concurs with the staff recommendation.

FINANCING:

Approval of the action will provide additional funding to the City of Redding for the Diestelhorst Bridge Restoration, while also providing funds to begin development of the next phase of I-5 widening. Environmental clearance will put the region in a stronger position to receive state and federal grants to widen I-5.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Little', written over a horizontal line.

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director