



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** June 10, 2008  
**TO:** Finance Committee  
**FROM:** Transportation Division, Public Works Department  
**SUBJECT:** Upper State Street Dedicated Transit Lanes Feasibility Study

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Finance Committee recommend the source of funding for the Upper State Street Dedicated Transit Lanes Feasibility Study should Council wish to pursue the study.

### **DISCUSSION:**

On October 9, 2007, Staff presented City Council with a proposed process for moving forward with guidelines for development within the Upper State Street area. This proposed process followed a year-long investigation of the street (the Upper State Street Study (USSS)), working with the community to determine future parameters for development, transportation, and the preservation of views.

One of the long-term transportation issues that arose during the USSS was that heavy transit service on State Street that provides local and regional service will continue to be impacted by current and future traffic congestion. The USSS includes consideration of dedicated transit lanes to get the buses out of traffic and increase the level of transit service to the area.

During the October meeting, Council recognized that guidelines for building development and setbacks were premature without first understanding if dedicated transit lanes are feasible, and if so, where they should be placed. Council unanimously directed Staff to prepare a Request For Proposals (RFP) to investigate the feasibility of dedicated transit lanes, and requested Staff return to Council with a draft RFP Scope Of Work.

On January 29, 2008, Staff clarified the Scope Of Work of the study and received direction from City Council to advertise an RFP. Staff received proposals from Fehr & Peers Transportation Consultants in the amount of \$256,094, and KOA Corporation in the amount of \$181,400. The Fehr & Peers proposal also includes a proposed scope adjustment that would reduce the cost to \$206,094. Staff believes that the reduced Scope of Work from Fehr & Peers should be sufficient to accomplish the scope of the Feasibility Study, should City Council wish to move forward with the study. Staff is recommending the Fehr & Peers proposal because it would use a stakeholder process to involve the community in determining the appropriate alignment for future dedicated transit lanes.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

The Upper State Street Dedicated Transit Lanes Feasibility Study is currently not a budgeted project. There are three options to consider for the funding of this study:

1. General Fund reserves
2. Measure D reserves
3. Reprogram Measure D funds in the Streets Capital Improvement program.

Staff is evaluating the available Measure D funds and the Streets Capital program and will discuss the results of their evaluation with the Finance Committee.

**PREPARED BY:** Browning Allen, Transportation Manager/RD

**SUBMITTED BY:** Paul Casey, Acting Public Works Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office