



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: John Ristow
John Aitken

**SUBJECT: STEVENS CREEK CORRIDOR
STUDY FOR THE DIRIDON TO
AIRPORT CONNECTOR PROJECT**

DATE: December 12, 2023

Approved

Date

12/15/23

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 1, 6

RECOMMENDATION

Direct staff to negotiate incorporation of the Stevens Creek Corridor Study into Phase 2 of the Diridon to Airport Connector Project.

SUMMARY AND OUTCOME

The Stevens Creek Corridor Study (Corridor Study) would be added to the scope of work and budget for the second phase of the Pre-Development Agreement (PDA) of the Diridon to Airport Connector (Connector) Project. Only if City Council chooses to progress the Connector Project would the Corridor Study advance. The Corridor Study would result in preliminary ridership estimate and an engineering analysis of the feasibility of extending the transit system envisioned for the Airport to Diridon Station transit connection along the San José portion of the West San Carlos/Stevens Creek corridor.

BACKGROUND

The Connector Project will provide quick, reliable, transit service connecting Diridon Station and San José Mineta International Airport. It will use battery-powered automated vehicles on a dedicated roadway. In May 2022, the City released a Request for Proposal to solicit bids. The base project in the Request for Proposal connects Diridon Station to Terminal B of the Airport.

In February 2023, a notice of preferred proposer was issued, selecting the San José Connection Partners (Connection Partners) as the project partner for the Connector Project. Following this selection, on April 18, 2023, City Council approved moving forward with Phase 1 of the PDA for the Connector Project. At its April 18, 2023 meeting, City Council directed staff to “explore and present to Council options for undertaking a feasibility study of the West San Carlos/Stevens Creek corridor including funding requirements, either as a separate project or as part of the

Diridon to Airport Connector’s pre-development agreement,” as expressed in a memorandum by Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Kamei, and Councilmember Davis. This memorandum responds to that request by providing an approach and cost estimate for the study as part of Phase 2 of the PDA.

ANALYSIS

In response to the direction from the City Council, staff recommends that a Corridor Study be added to Phase 2 of the Connector Project PDA. The Corridor Study would consist of two elements to quantify the ridership potential and engineering feasibility of the West San Carlos/Stevens Creek corridor:

1. A ridership study of the corridor; and,
2. Five percent concept-level plans for an indicative alignment between Diridon Station and the City border to Westfield Valley Fair mall.

The first component, the ridership study, would be undertaken by the consultant the City already has under contract for the Connector Project, Arup North America Ltd. (Arup). Arup produced the ridership study used in the procurement of the Connector Project. The cost of the ridership study for the Stevens Creek Corridor is currently estimated at \$45,000. Arup’s scope of work would include:

- Confirming station locations and characteristics (e.g., intermodal transfers) in coordination with City staff;
- Completing a demand assessment utilizing the output from the San José’s General Plan travel demand model;
- Issuing draft and final technical memorandum; and,
- Presenting to team and responding to comments and questions.

The second component of the Corridor Study will be concept-level design. The Connection Partners would produce five percent concept-level plans. These would be obtained through a negotiated change to the PDA Phase 2 cost cap. The Corridor Study would not change the project scope for the Connector Project. Instead, it would examine an additional corridor per the system expansion strategy defined in PDA Exhibit 5 Section 3.3(a)(v).

The estimated total cost, shared between the City and the Connection Partners, is currently estimated at \$350,000. The City’s portion of the cost for the five percent design plans would be negotiated as part of the negotiation of the PDA validation amendment and Phase 2 cost cap. The PDA validation amendment will require future approval. The plans would include:

- One indicative alignment option with potential station locations and additional vehicle storage and maintenance facilities as agreed to with the City during up to two collaborative screening workshops, including plan/profile; and,
- Connection Partners anticipates delivering a scroll plot to identify the alignment and station configuration.

These two studies will verify the physical feasibility of the corridor to support an alignment as well as demand. The studies would not include a financial feasibility report, benefit-cost analysis, or operating cost forecasts.

Phase 1 of the Connector Project is producing a feasibility alignment, feasibility validation report, and project schedule. This work includes fundamental feasibility questions about the technology and project type approach. These will inform the City and Connection Partners' decision whether to advance into the next stage of the project. The San Carlos and Stevens Creek corridor would be further segments to the Connector Project. Including the Corridor Study in Phase 2 of the large effort allows City Council to consider base feasibility questions before entering into further work.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

If City Council decides to move forward with the Corridor Study as staff recommends, it will be added to the PDA Phase 2 scope of work for the Connection Partners and Arup. The results of the Corridor Study will be brought back to City Council for consideration within six months of the start of the Connector project Phase 2 work. Staff expects to return to City Council at the completion of Phase 1 in summer 2024, at which point City Council will consider progressing the Connector Project into Phase 2.

COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS

The proposed recommendation would not alter the budget for the on-going Phase 1 of the PDA. The future costs implication of the Corridor Study will be quantified and evaluated as part of the scope and budget of PDA Phase 2 when it is brought to City Council in the summer of 2024.

COORDINATION

This memorandum was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office and the City Manager's Budget Office.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

This memorandum will be posted on the City Council Agenda website for the January 9, 2024 City Council meeting.

City staff conducted outreach with potential alignment stakeholders, labor leaders, public agencies, and members of the public. A community meeting was held on September 20, 2023. As part of the multi-jurisdictional Stevens Creek Corridor Vision Study, staff has presented to

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

December 12, 2023

Subject: Stevens Creek Corridor Study

Page 4

elected leaders and the public from Cupertino, City of Santa Clara, County of Santa Clara, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, and the City of San José at least three times since 2020.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION AND INPUT

No commission recommendation or input is associated with this action.

CEQA

Statutorily Exempt. File No. PP17-001. CEQA Guidelines Section 15262. Feasibility and Planning Studies.

PUBLIC SUBSIDY REPORTING

This item does not include a public subsidy as defined in section 53083 or 53083.1 of the California Government Code or the City's Open Government Resolution.

/s/
JOHN RISTOW
Director of Transportation

/s/
JOHN AITKEN
Director of Aviation

For questions, please contact Brian Stanke, Transit Planning Manager, at brian.stanke@sanjoseca.gov or (408) 795-1834.