

CIP Proposal: 300 / 400 NORTH INTERMODAL STUDY

For a number of years, the Fairpark Community Council, as a Board and community residents, have been concerned with the safety of the travel corridor on 300 North, between 400 and 500 West, especially for West High students traveling to and from school. Central to this concern is the railroad crossing that intersects 300 North between 400 and 500 West. But, other concerns exist relating to this travel corridor; e.g., the fairly desolate expanse of vacant property that abuts 300 North between 400 and 500 West and the observation that 300 North traffic appears to be as great as it was during the North Temple TRAX construction. City plans to decrease the speed limit along North Temple coupled with increased traffic congestion that will appear on North Temple as development occurs, may further increase traffic along 300 North.

These concerns have been heightened with the projected 2014 completion of the new Marmalade Library on the southwest corner of the block between 500 and 600 North along 900 West. If the experiences of other City libraries holds true, the Marmalade Library will be a magnet for children after school and on weekends. The Fairpark Community Council is especially concerned with the safety of the more than 500 children who attend Jackson Elementary. For these students, and other children in Jackson and Guadalupe neighborhoods, the new library will be an incredible resource. For a number of children, the library will a safe place for them to be until parents get off of work; for others, access to the library's computer will be invaluable. The question is, how safe will these children be as they travel to and from, the library?

Beyond the Council's initial concerns with the 300 North travel corridor, the library's location on 500 North 300 West presents the potential that many children who travel to and from the Guadalupe and Jackson neighborhoods will choose to walk along 600 West to use the 400 North railroad crossing, if no other reason than to avoid the older kids coming from West High. Plus, the 600 West route may, simply, be more pleasant than the corresponding route along 400 West.

The Fairpark Community Council recognizes that these concerns are based on assumptions and that the 300 and 400 North routes to the new library may not present a significant risk to children. But, without additional information, these concerns cannot be validated nor disproved.

Therefore, the Fairpark Community Council is requesting that the City allocate CIP funds to conduct an intermodal study on the safety of the 300 and 400 North travel routes, looking at potential risks to children on foot or riding bicycles or some other mode of transportation and what might be done to mitigate these risks.