

Appendix C

Phase I Detailed Description – Improvements to Interchange Between PR-18 and PR-21

The proposed project is in the Municipality of San Juan at entrance of Centro Médico the main medical complex in the Island, and near the old Penitenciaría Estatal de Río Piedras, at intersection PR-18 and PR-21.

The project will be developed as a freeway connector to PR-18 and PR-21 composed of two bridges, and the construction and/or reconfiguration of seven (7) on/off ramps to/from PR-21.

The first of the bridges to be constructed will replace the existing grade intersection of the Centro Médico facilities on/off ramp at PR-21. The other bridge will cross PR-18 connecting with the peripheral road of the old Penitenciaría Estatal de Río Piedras (“penitentiary”).

The new road connecting between the two bridges gives access to the, Centro Médico Hospital and future facilities of the proposed developments. The project include improvements that promote other modes of transportation, such walking, cycling, Tren Urbano and bus system.

The total cost of construction of this project is estimated at \$28.1 million. Puerto Rico is committed to providing \$10.4 million toward the project, representing 37 percent of the total project cost. TIGER V funding in the amount of \$17.7 million will complete the financing package for these improvements.

To improve the accessibility and circulation of the traffic projections from the economic development of the area, changes to the intersection of PR-21 with Centro Médico’s entrance, which includes access changes to the PR-18 SB ramps and access from PR-21, are needed.

The proposed changes will better support the existing land uses and promote the use of other modes of transportation, such as walking, cycling, Tren Urbano, and the bus system.

The change in access would be particular to the PR-18 SB Off-Ramp to PR-21 WB and PR-18 SB On-Ramp from PR-21, in order to accommodate the Science City Boulevard that will interconnect the three destinations: Science City, CCC, and Centro Médico. It will also connect to Centro Médico’s Tren Urbano Station, allowing the Veterans Affairs Hospital’s medical faculty and patients to access any of these facilities as well.

The Science City Boulevard will cross over PR-21 with a bridge structure connecting Centro Médico’s access and PR-21 Frontage Road at grade level. This will eliminate the existing traffic signal at the intersection of PR-21 with Centro Médico’s entrance and PR-18 SB On-Ramp. A split of PR-18’s SB Off-Ramp to PR-21 is proposed to create a flyover ramp to PR-21 WB in order to segregate PR-21’s traffic from Centro Médico’s, CCC’s, or Science City’s traffic.

To accommodate the Science City Boulevard, the relocation of PR-18’s SB On-Ramp is proposed. The relocation of this ramp would require its gore-nose to be moved approximately 30 meters north, increasing the distance from the gore-nose to the painted-gore from approximately 55 to 90 meters. The latter will increase the distance between this ramp (PR-18 SB On-Ramp from PR-21) and PR-18 SB Off-Ramp to PR-1 from approximately 780 to 815 meters, measured from the painted-gores of each ramp’s gore area. Additionally, PR-21 EB direction’s right lane would canalize the traffic exiting PR-21 to the Science City Boulevard and entering PR-18 SB

On-Ramp. In addition to the flyover, the gore-nose of this exit ramp would be shifted north approximately 8 meters, although the painted-gore would remain at its current location.

The project consists of the following:

- construction of the split and flyover PR-18 SB Off-Ramp to PR-21 WB,
- construction of the Science City Boulevard bridge over PR-21,
- permanent relocation of the PR-18 SB On-Ramp from PR-21 EB
- construction of a right-in right-out access to the Science City Boulevard
- elimination of the traffic signal of PR-21 with Centro Médico's entrance, including closing the median at this location.