

CITY LOWERS FEES: At its June 7 regular meeting, the Visalia City Council unanimously approved a reduction of Transportation Impact Fees (TIF) by 15% across the board. At its April 19 meeting, Council had directed staff to review current impact fees and to “right-size” them based on current construction industry conditions. The TIF reduction resulted from the deferral of \$10.5 million in projects bordering or just outside the City’s 165,000 Urban Development Boundary, utilizing \$3.4 million from the State’s corridor Mobility Improvement Account Fund for the Plaza Drive/State Route 198 Interchange Project, and reducing right-of-way acquisition costs by \$30 million in light of the current economic situation. Council also approved 15% reductions in both Park Acquisition Impact Fees and Waterways Acquisition Fees to reflect the decrease in land costs. In addition, a “Special Downtown TIF Credit Zone” with a credit of 25% was established, as the trend toward walkability between downtown venues has decreased the trip count for projects in this area. The current 15% infill credit will also be increased to 25% to encourage development in pre-developed areas of the City. The TIF fees for gas stations will utilize a tiered fee structure based on the number of positions. Each tier is reduced by 25% to give credit for underutilized gas positions during non-peak hours. Also, the 2009 increase of 6.5% from the Engineering News Records Construction Cost Index will be waived for the FY 2010-2011. This deferral saved developers an estimated \$390,000 in 2008/09.

BUILDING PERMITS UP 3%: In the first five months of this year, the total number of building permits issued by the City was up 3%, from 1,287 in 2009 to 1,320 in 2010. New single family dwellings fell by only 1%, while residential additions and alterations were up 18%, from 346 in 2009 to 409 in 2010. The total valuation of all permits was down 16%, from \$67,480,731 in 2009 to \$56,927,743 in 2010.

VISALIA TO HOST 2011 CAL RIPKEN MAJOR/60 WORLD SERIES: Babe Ruth League, Inc., International Headquarters has announced that the 2011 Cal Ripken Major/60 World Series will be hosted by the City and played at Riverway Sports Park. Phase Two was just completed, which features four youth baseball fields that will play host to the World Series next year. In making the announcement, BRL Vice President/Commissioner Robert Flaherty said, “In awarding a World Series, the main factors we consider are the facility, the Headquarters Hotel, the areas where the players will be housed, and community support. We also look for areas that in addition to offering a competitive athletic experience, can also offer a diverse cultural and educational experience. Visalia has all of these elements and more.”

TRANSIT ROUTE CHANGES FOCUS OF PUBLIC MEETING: The Visalia Transit Division is working to improve the efficiency of service by removing duplications of routes and adding service to much needed areas. Public input is being sought, and a public meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 7, in the third floor conference room of the Visalia Transit Center, 425 E. Oak Ave. For more information, call 1-877-40 GO GREEN.

SEQUOIA SHUTTLE RIDERSHIP UP 90% FOR 2010 SEASON: Since the season started over Memorial Day weekend, a total of 1,522 seats have been sold for the fourth season of the Sequoia Shuttle service to Sequoia National Park. Combined with the 760 group-on seats purchased and to be scheduled, ridership is at 2,282, up 90% from the 1,242 sold by the same time last year. The Shuttle has proved a popular group attraction thanks in large part to the discount of \$6 one-way or \$12 roundtrip which is available throughout the season. The regular price per person is \$15 round-trip, and includes the in-park shuttle and entrance fee. For group bookings, contact Gamaliel Anguiano at 713-4594. For all other reservations, call the toll-free 24-hour Call Center at 1-877-287-4453.

BEN MADDUX OVERCROSSING WORK CONTINUES: The timeline for construction for the next two weeks are as follows:

- **Week of June 7 to June 11:** Construction work will continue along the south side of Noble

Week of June 7 to June 11: Construction work will continue along the south side of Noble Avenue between the main entrance into Mary's Vineyard and Wal-Mart's east entrance. Traffic will continue to run on the north side of Noble Avenue to allow for grading and excavation of new roadway section. Installation of new curb, gutter and sidewalk public improvements for this phase is scheduled to continue this week. Drainage work includes the installation of storm drain pipe at the intersection of Noble Avenue and Ben Maddox along the north side of street. Some of the drainage work will be performed at night beginning at 8 p.m. Demolition at the south east corner of Ben Maddox and Mineral King Avenue will continue this week. Pedestrian traffic will continue to be diverted to the sidewalk on the west side of the bridge and minimal traffic impact is expected at this intersection. Lane and ramp closures on SR198 will begin effective Wednesday, June 9.

- **Week of June 14 to June 18:** The contractor has rescheduled the next phase of demolition work along the south side of Noble Avenue between Ben Maddox and the main entrance into Mary's Vineyard Shopping Center for late June. Demolition on the bridge is scheduled to begin June 14. Work will include the removal of the sidewalk and the east side of the bridge deck. This work will be conducted during evening hours and full highway closures are expected during this phase of work.