



STAFF REPORT

City Council

Meeting Date: 9/13/2016
Staff Report Number: 16-162-CC

Consent Calendar: **Authorize the City Manager to award a construction contract and all related service agreements for the Santa Cruz Avenue Sidewalk Project up to the budgeted amount**

Recommendation

Authorize the City Manager to award a construction contract and all related service agreements for the Santa Cruz Avenue Sidewalk Project up to the budgeted amount.

Policy Issues

This item is included in the Council's adopted 2016 Work Plan (#25) to install sidewalks on Santa Cruz Avenue from Olive Street to Johnson Street. The proposal is consistent with General Plan Circulation Policy II-E-4: "The City shall incorporate appropriate pedestrian facilities, traffic control, and street lighting within street improvement projects to maintain or improve pedestrian safety. Furthermore, the City's Sidewalk Master Plan identified this segment as a high priority.

Background

The Santa Cruz Avenue Sidewalk Project has been identified in the City's Capital Improvement Plan since Fiscal year (FY) 2007-08. On March 10, 2015, the Council approved a modified version of the preferred alternative for the project for further design and implementation. At the February 9, 2016 Council Study Session, staff provided an update to the City Council and presented several design considerations. At that study session Council directed staff to retain the proposed 46-foot wide street curb-to-curb width, retain the existing travel lane widths and include 5-foot bike lanes and 2-foot bike buffers along with 6 foot sidewalk widths, with certain exceptions for heritage trees and significant landscaping features. On June 1, 2016, the Council approved a \$5.9 million budget and appropriated project funding for the Santa Cruz Avenue Sidewalk Project.

Analysis

Since the June 2016 Council meeting, staff has been working diligently with the City's design consultant to finalize the plans and specifications for the bid package. There are a few updates worth noting. First, staff coordinated with Cal Water on replacing the water main in Santa Cruz Avenue between Olive Street and University Avenue. In addition to replacing the aging infrastructure, the water main was relocated from the north side of the street to the center of the street. This will make the construction of the sidewalk more straightforward and decrease the potential for utility conflicts for the new the new storm drain line. Second, staff learned that St. Raymond's School and St. Raymond's Church located at the northwest corner of Santa Cruz Avenue and Arbor Road was interested in exploring potential changes to its property and frontage. Given the fact that sidewalks currently exist along St. Raymond's and the potential for change in the future, staff has removed this stretch of approximately 550 feet from the project, which should increase

the likelihood that bids will come in within the budget. Staff also spent time determining the logistics and phasing of constructing these improvements on a major thoroughfare that carries 15,300 vehicles per day plus numerous cyclists and pedestrians, to ensure proper consideration in the bid specifications. Finally, staff has gained additional insights into the current market conditions for construction projects. Recent projects have suffered from limited bidders, bids coming in over the construction budget, lowest bidders that are not responsive and responsible, and one project for which no bids were received at all.

As of June 1, staff was anticipating that an award of contract in September. Due to the complexity of the project and the current bidding environment, staff is now targeting an award in mid-October, resulting in a two to three week delay. In order to maintain momentum on this project and make up time, staff is requesting City Council authorization for the City Manager to enter into a construction contract provided that the lowest responsive and responsible bid is within the budgeted amount. Staff is structuring the bid in such a way that a component of the project related to fiber optic traffic signal connections could be omitted from the project if necessary. If the lowest bid is still not within the budgeted amount for whatever reason, then staff would return to the City Council immediately with options for Council consideration. If the bid process is fruitful, construction would be expected to start approximately four to six weeks after the bid opening assuming contractor availability and continue for approximately nine months.

Staff sent a letter recently to all immediately affected property owners along Santa Cruz Avenue to provide an update. Staff will continue to work with property owners and the overall community that uses Santa Cruz Avenue, especially the schools, to minimize construction impacts to the greatest extent possible.

Additional service agreements are necessary to support the construction of this project. Staff anticipates the need for the following services: materials testing and inspection services, arborist services when excavating near trees and agreements with various utility companies such as Cal Water, West Bay Sanitary District and PG&E to relocate and/or adjust their facilities within the project limits.

Impact on City Resources

The project budget is \$5.9 million, of which includes staff time, consultant services and construction.

Environmental Review

The project is categorically exempt under Class 1 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines. Class 1 allows for minor alterations of existing facilities, including highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian access, and similar facilities, as long as there is negligible or no expansion of use.

Public Notice

Public Notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Attachments

None

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