

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: February 19, 2008
Reviewed by: *BP*

SUBJECT: Authorize the City Administrator to enter into a contract with DMJM Harris for the development of 35% Plans, Specifications & Engineering (PS&E), Environmental work and Traffic Analysis for the Buchanan Bicycle/Pedestrian Path

FROM: Randy Leptien, City Engineer
Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Transportation Planner

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution #08-9, authorizing the City Administrator to award a contract to DMJM Harris in the amount of \$239,990 for Phase I of the Buchanan Bicycle/Pedestrian Path project, which entails development of 35% PS&E, Environmental work, and Traffic Analysis.

BACKGROUND

The Albany Bicycle Master Plan calls for the implementation of a Class I bicycle path along Buchanan Street as part of the City's bicycle network. In 2004, the City applied for a Transportation Engineering Technical Assistance Program (TETAP) grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to evaluate the feasibility of a bike path along Buchanan Street. The study analyzed various alignment alternatives along the street. Through a series of public meetings with the Traffic and Safety Commission and City Council, a preferred alignment was selected to locate a Class I path along all, or most of, the south side of Marin/Buchanan.

The Alameda County Wide Bicycle Plan ranked this project as top priority for funding given its regional and local significance as a route that closes the existing gap between the Ohlone Greenway and the Bay Trail. As a result, the City was successful in obtaining a grant for the completion of Phase I of this project through the Alameda County 2006/2007 Coordinated Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, which included Measure B funds administered by the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA), and federal funds administered by the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency. The total project costs of Phase I was estimated at \$300,000. Of this amount, the grant would fund 88.7% (\$ 266,000), and the City would provide an 11.3% match (\$34,000). Therefore, in 2007 the City Council approved Resolution No. 07-09 which authorized up to \$34,000 in Measure F funds for this project.

Phase II would entail development of complete engineering plans, right of way acquisition, and construction. The City will seek funds from available grants for the second phase when the current process is near completion.

DISCUSSION

After the City received the Notice to Proceed with the project from ACTIA, staff prepared a Request for Proposals from qualified transportation, planning and environmental firms for the development of this project. The City received seven proposals from qualified firms in the area, making the process very competitive. Staff formed a selection panel with one representative from each of the following: Traffic and Safety Commission, Albany Strollers and Rollers, and East Bay Bicycle Coalition. In addition, the City Engineer, the Assistant City Administrator, and the Transportation Planner were also part of the selection panel.

Through a scoring process, the three top firms were invited to present their proposals before the selection panel. The three top scoring firms were interviewed. DMJM Harris was selected to conduct the work for a contract amount of \$ 239,990. The selection was based on the team qualifications, relevant team experience, project understanding, and approach to the challenges presented by the project itself. Since the available funds for Phase I of this project were disclosed in the RFP, cost was not a significant consideration in the selection process.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The City's Capital Improvement Program allocates \$40,000 in Measure F monies for the Buchanan Street Bicycle project. As mentioned above, the City Council authorized \$34,000 in Measure F funds for this project phase. The contract was negotiated to the \$239,990 amount, in order to account for contingencies and possible change orders. The ACTIA grant will fund 88.7% of this contract. Because Albany's matching share of the ACTIA grant is 11.3% of the contract amount, or about \$27,200, no additional funding authorization is required.

Attachment

City Council Resolution #08-9
Scope of Work – DMJM Harris
Budget