

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

Agenda Date: 06/07/10
Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Buchanan Bicycle and Pedestrian Path - Preparation of 100% Plans, Specifications and Engineering

REPORT BY: Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Transportation Planner

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Administrator to enter into Contract No. C10-10 with AECOM Engineering to prepare 100% Plans, Specifications and Engineering (PS&E) for the Buchanan Bicycle and Pedestrian Path in an amount not to exceed \$187,830.

BACKGROUND

The Buchanan Bicycle and Pedestrian path is a project that entails extension of the Marin Avenue bicycle lanes from Cornell Avenue to San Pablo Avenue; construction of a multi-use trail along the south side of Marin Avenue/Buchanan Street; installation of a traffic signal at Pierce Street for path crossing; and continue the path along the north side of Buchanan Street to the bridge overcrossing. It also entails extending the westbound bike lane from San Pablo Avenue to the Buchanan overcrossing and closing the extension of Buchanan Street leading to Cleveland Street to vehicular traffic.

The City Council recently approved the 35% plans and environmental document. This work was made possible through a grant from the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA). For this work, the City contracted with AECOM, formerly DMJM Harris, through a competitive process. During the project development phase, the City met with the project stake holders to discuss project alignment and alternatives (United States Department of Agriculture, the Albany Unified School District, and the University of California). The City has received Letters of Intent from the project stakeholders to enter into a right of way agreement, and is awaiting final completion of these agreements.

DISCUSSION

The City has recently submitted a \$1.7 million grant application to the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (ACCMA) through the Block Grant Bicycle program for the construction of a segment of the Buchanan Bicycle and Pedestrian Path. This segment would extend from the intersection of Marin Avenue and San Pablo Avenue to the Buchanan overcrossing. Because the segment from Cornell Avenue to San Pablo Avenue is being considered for a utility undergrounding district (soon to be presented to the City Council), it was not included in the ACCMA grant application. Staff believes it would be best to coordinate the

undergrounding project and bicycle lane project in order to reduce disruption to the neighborhood.

Because the Buchanan Path is a high priority in the Alameda Countywide Bicycle Plan, it is highly probable that the City will obtain funding in the near future. However, grant schedules could be tight in terms of timing, and require projects be completed within two years of grant award. This translates into the need to complete the 100% PS&E for the entirety of the Buchanan Path project (from Cornell Avenue to Buchanan overcrossing) as soon as possible as project readiness is crucial to secure construction funding.

The ACCMA grant does not cover preparation of engineered plans. Therefore, the cost to complete the engineering work rests solely with the City. While the City is seeking other grants that may cover this cost, the final outcome is currently unknown. The amount proposed by AECOM to prepare the 100% plans is \$187,830 (Scope of Work). Because of the complex nature of this project and the fact that AECOM prepared the 35% plans, staff believes it would be cost effective for this firm to continue with the preparation of the 100% plans. In order to secure seamless continuity in the development of the plans, staff requests Council to authorize the City Administrator to enter into a contract with AECOM for the completion of 100% PS&E for the Buchanan Path Project.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Expediting construction of the Buchanan Bicycle and Pedestrian Path would provide an alternative to the private automobile, and encourage cycling and walking for purposes of commuting, going to school, shopping, and the like. Such a path would help the City reach its goal to decrease carbon emissions.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The financial impact to the City by entering into a contract with AECOM would be \$187,830. Staff proposes that a portion of the \$300,000 in Measure F funds, set aside for the Buchanan Path project, be used to cover the cost of this engineering contract.

In 2008, the Traffic and Safety Commission recommended that Council release \$300,000 in unspent Measure F funds for Marin Avenue Phase II improvements. The reason for this Commission's recommendation was because Phase I improvements are achieving traffic calming goals, and other projects will provide some of the bulbout enhancements envisioned for Marin Avenue (e.g., Buchanan Path project, Marin/Santa Fe intersection enhancement project). The Commission also recommended setting aside the \$300,000 to be available as a match for planning and construction grants anticipated for the Buchanan Path project. This transfer in project funding was part of the 2008-09/2012-13 Five Year Capital Improvement Plan. It is conceivable that because the 100% PS&E plans are considered part of the construction phase, the city's contribution of \$187,830 could be used as part of the required match for some upcoming construction grants.

Attachment

Scope of Work and Proposal