

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

Agenda Date: December 13, 2010

Reviewed by: BP

**SUBJECT:** Buchanan / Jackson Traffic Signal & Intersection Safety Improvements  
at Ocean View School

**REPORT BY:** Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Transportation Planner  
Randy Leptien, City Engineer  
Ann Chaney, Community Development Director

---

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

1. Approve 100% Construction Plans for the Buchanan/Jackson Traffic Signal & Intersection Safety Improvements at Ocean View School, and;
2. Authorize the City Clerk to Advertise for Bids (Contract #10-22), contingent upon receipt of, and Council acceptance of, the Offer of Dedication and Temporary Construction Easement (TCE) from the University of California.

Note: It is anticipated that a minor changes may need to be made to the plans submitted herein. However, any changes would not be substantive and would not affect the basic design.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2007, the City received a \$293,760 grant from Caltrans' Safe Routes to School program to make improvements around Ocean View School to enhance pedestrian safety and improve the walking route to this school. Key features of the project include:

- New traffic signal with protected left turn arrows at all four legs of Buchanan Street and Jackson Street intersection.
- Pedestrian countdown devices.
- Bulbouts at the southwest corner (next to school) and northwest corner of the Jackson/Buchanan intersection.
- New ADA compliant curb ramps at all four Buchanan/Jackson intersection corners.
- New ADA compliant curb ramps at the southeast and southwest corners of Madison/Solano Avenue intersection.
- Two solar speed feedback signs along Buchanan Street between San Pablo and Pierce Street.
- Crosswalk striping marking the route to Ocean View School at:
  - Pierce, Fillmore, Taylor, Cerrito and Jackson streets on north side of Buchanan St.
  - Both sides of Solano Avenue from Pierce Street to Jackson Street

On September 12, 2009, the City Council approved the 35% design plans for this project prepared by AECOM Engineering, with the addition of dedicated left turn lanes at Jackson Street. This action was in response to an appeal of a Traffic & Safety Commission's decision approving the 35% plans. It was acknowledged that adding the dedicated left turn lanes would result in removal of four parking spaces in the 900 block of Jackson Street north of Buchanan, and approximately seven angled parking spaces on Jackson Street south of Buchanan (across from Ocean View Elementary School).

## **DISCUSSION**

Construction is scheduled to begin immediately after school ends in June 2011. In order to construct the project, an Offer of Dedication and Temporary Construction Easement (TCE) are needed respectively from the University of California and the Albany Unified School District. This is because portions of the project will be built on land owned by UC and AUSD.

The AUSD Board approved both the Offer of Dedication and TCE, and on October 14, 2010, the Albany City Council accepted the Offer. City staff expects to receive UC's Offer of Dedication and TCE approval before the end of the year. Acceptance of the Offer, by the City Council, will be necessary before the City can advertise for construction bids. Both City and UC staffs are confident the processing of these documents will occur in the next several weeks, and in January the item will be placed on the City Council agenda for acceptance.

The portion of land being dedicated by AUSD and UC is located on Jackson Street immediately abutting the intersection with Buchanan Street (see attached aerial photo). This land area consists of street pavement, sidewalk, and above and underground utilities directly related to the traffic signal and operating equipment. Because of this, both agencies recognize that it is more appropriate for the City to own and maintain this land.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

The project will bring increased safety to the area around Ocean View School. Safer routes to school encourage students, and their families, to walk to school and other nearby destinations (e.g., Ocean View Park), thereby reducing carbon emissions. The project dovetails with the Buchanan Bicycle and Pedestrian Path project which will provide an alternative means of travel to driving.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The Engineer's Estimate for construction of the Buchanan/Jackson Traffic Signal & Intersection Safety Improvements including contingencies is \$303,000. It is hoped that the lowest responsible bid will be approximately 10% lower than this amount, or approximately \$273,000. In the event that the low bid is higher than the Engineer's Estimate before contingencies, Council authorization will be necessary.

<b>Estimated Project Cost</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Design and review (AECOM and LCC)	\$ 50,000
Right of Way	\$ 10,000
Signal installation (\$112,100) and Construction (\$183,672)	\$ 303,000
Construction Management Estimate (10% of construction cost)	\$ 20,000
Education	\$ 19,400
<b>Total Cost (Estimate)</b>	<b>\$ 402,400</b>
<b>Project Revenues</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Measure F – 2002 (Street projects)	\$ 40,973
Measure B(ACTIA Non-Competitive funds)	\$ 35,731
State Safe Routes 2 School	\$ 293,760
Measure F – 2006 (Pavement and Storm Drains)	\$ 31,936
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 402,400</b>

If the lowest responsible bid is less than the Engineer's Estimate, it is possible the project can be built under budget. If this is the case, savings first would be shown in Measure F 2006 funding, followed by Measure F 2002 funding.

Attachments

- 100% Plans by AECOM
- Enlarged Plan of Intersection improvements
- Engineer's Estimate
- Aerial photo showing Offer of Dedication and Temporary Construction Easement areas