

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

Agenda Date: 02/22/05

Prepared Date: 02/10/05

Reviewed by: _____

- SUBJECT:**
1. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Administrator to execute a contract with Korve Engineering to prepare engineering plans for Phase I of the Marin Avenue Reconfiguration Project, and conduct “before and after” monitoring of the project, in an amount not to exceed \$39,000.00.
 2. Authorize the Mayor to respond to a letter from Mayor Tom Bates, City of Berkeley, regarding the Marin Avenue Reconfiguration project.

REPORT BY: A. Cherry Chaicharn, Transportation Planner
Ann Chaney, Community Development Director

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt Resolution No. 05-05 authorizing the City Administrator to execute a contract with Korve Engineering to prepare engineering plans for Phase I of the Marin Avenue Reconfiguration Project, and conduct “before and after” monitoring of the project, in an amount not to exceed \$39,000.00.
2. Authorize the Mayor to respond to a letter from Mayor Bates, City of Berkeley, regarding the Marin Avenue Reconfiguration project. (Attached is a draft letter for Council consideration.)

BACKGROUND

1. Contract Execution

On July 1, 2002, the City of Albany City Council approved Resolution No. 02-52, approving the reconfiguration of Marin Avenue from 4 lanes to 3 travel lanes (2 travel lanes, and 1 middle turning lane), adding bike lanes, and changing the striping and signage to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety on Marin, and implement traffic calming measures. In that same resolution, Council directed staff to proceed with project implementation.

On November 15, 2004, the Council approved Resolution No. 04-57 certifying the Negative Declaration for Phase I. Phase I involves reconfiguring Marin Avenue through striping and signage only. On January 25, 2005, the City of Berkeley also certified the Negative Declaration. In January, staff released a request for proposal (RFP) for the preparation of engineering plans, specifications, and estimates (PS&E), and “before and after” monitoring of the Marin Avenue project. The City received four excellent responses which made the decision a difficult one. However, based staffs review, we recommend Korve Engineering in that the response demonstrated a good understanding of the project, exhibited a good ability to work with both the cities of Albany and Berkeley, included a strong monitoring component, and represented a fair price.

Once the engineering plans are complete, staff will prepare a construction bid package and return to the City Council to authorize the Call for Bids and Award of Contract for construction. Project construction is expected to begin in July with completion anticipated in August. It should be

noted that this Phase I project, and funding estimate, includes resurfacing the street prior to re-striping.

2. Response letter to City of Berkeley

At the January 25, 2005 Berkeley City Council meeting, several council members conveyed constituents' concerns about increased traffic congestion and potential diversion of traffic to side streets. As a result, Mayor Tom Bates sent a letter to Albany's City Council expressing these concerns and asking "assurance that the City of Albany will work with us to quickly make corrections or return Marin to its current configuration and try other traffic calming techniques."

Recently the Albany and Berkeley staffs met to discuss the importance of a coordinated and thorough "before and after" monitoring effort. As part of this preliminary discussion were street locations, timing and duration, and the school schedules for Albany and Berkeley unified school districts, University of California, and St. Mary's College High School. Albany's staff and consultant will work closely with Berkeley on this component. The "before" project monitoring on Marin Avenue, and its parallel and cross streets, will be conducted prior to the end of 2004-05 school year. It should be noted that the two staffs also discussed design and construction issues.

Attached is a draft letter to Mayor Bates from Mayor Good that expresses Albany's intent to convert Marin Avenue to its former configuration should the project fail to calm traffic on Marin Avenue. It is the opinion of our consultants that traffic patterns will not have fully settled within 90 days of project completion. Therefore, the letter states that Albany prefers a full one-year trial to allow for a complete and comprehensive evaluation prior to deciding whether a conversion back to the current configuration is necessary. However, in order for data to be consistent in both cities, the draft letter states that Albany agrees to join Berkeley in collecting data at the end of 90-days. Finally, the letter states that while the Albany Council may revisit the issue at that time, no final decision will be made until the one-year trial period is complete, unless the data is compelling, and the City's consultants and professional staff advise otherwise.

The engineering contract, currently before Council, covers "after" project monitoring costs at the end of a one-year trial period. However, those monitoring funds could be shifted to coincide with Berkeley's 90-day "after" monitoring effort. Thus, a second set of monitoring data at the end of the one-year trial period would likely require separate funding.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This contract is for \$38,905 for the engineering of Phase I, and conducting "before and after" monitoring. It is anticipated that the total project cost for Phase I, including resurfacing and implementation, will be approximately \$240,000. Albany applied for and received a \$120,000 Transportation Funds for Clean Air (TFCA) grant which requires a 50% match from the City. The City's match of \$120,000 will be funded through Measure F as previously approved in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Attachments

- Resolution No. 05-05
- Comparison of RFP total costs and senior level involvement by the four respondents
- Korve Engineering Scope of Work and Fee Estimate
- Letter from Mayor Bates, City of Berkeley
- Draft letter from Mayor Good in response to Mayor Bates' letter