

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

Agenda Date: March 16, 2009

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: 2009 Accessibility Ramps Project

REPORT BY: Ann Chaney, Community Development Director
Ana Bernardes, Project Manager

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council:

1. Authorize the City Administration to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Jacobs Engineers to provide design services for the 2009 Accessibility Ramps Project in an amount of \$41,200; and
2. Authorize the City Administrator to call for bids to construct the 2009 Accessibility Ramps Project - CIP Project P27. Staff will return to the Council for approval to award the construction contract.

BACKGROUND

The City installed 43 accessibility access ramps throughout the City during FY 2004/05 and 2005/06. Modifications to the access ramps at Masonic and Marin Avenues were completed in 2007-08. Community Development Block Grant funds will be used for ramp design and construction. At the time the Capital Improvement Plan was adopted, the remaining number of street corners needing curb ramps was not known. Thus, the CIP estimated 39 ramps could be built based on the CDBG allocation.

DISCUSSION

City staff recently conducted a citywide survey and found that there are about 59 corners citywide that do not have an access ramp. Of these, 17 have already been designed but require more office and field review. Some of these corners will be simpler to design than others depending upon drainage problems and conflicts with utilities. In order to take advantage of economies of scale and efficiency, staff recommends that design plans be finalized for all the remaining curb ramps. This met with approval from the CDBG administrators. Because the current bidding climate is good, the City may be able to construct at least 30 ramps, and have the remaining ramps already designed for a future round of funding.

ANALYSIS

Jacobs Engineers provided engineering services to the City for the other accessibility ramp projects during fiscal years of 2004/05 and 2005/06. Staff has been satisfied with the work performed by Jacobs Engineering, including the development of plans and specifications. Because of Jacobs' experience and understanding of the City infrastructure, as well as their proven ability to prepare accurate plans and complete a project generally on time and within budget, staff recommends that they be hired to conduct the engineering design work for the 2009 Accessibility Ramps Project. It is anticipated that the project would go out to bid in late Spring, with construction occurring during mid-summer.

Staff will return to Council for approval to award the construction contract.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Accessibility ramps afford greater mobility by disabled persons, strollers, and able bodied persons in general. Thus, they promote non-motorized travel, thereby reducing air emissions. The ultimate construction of these ramps will involve the use of recyclable aggregate base and the use of fly ash as part of the concrete mixture.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

CDBG funds in the amount of \$145,273 have been allocated in the adopted CIP budget for this project (P27). Design costs for all remaining ramps citywide will total \$41,200. The remaining funds will be used for constructing at least 30 ramps (\$ 92,000) and for construction management (\$12,073).

Attachment

Jacobs Engineers Proposal for the design of the remaining accessibility ramps