



CITY OF COMMERCE MEASURE AA COMMITTEE REPORT

Item No. _____

TO: Measure AA Committee

FROM: Maryam Babaki, Director of Public Works & Development Services

SUBJECT: ASTOR AVENUE MEDIAN ISLAND BEAUTIFICATION AND
SPEED HUMP FUNDING REQUESTS

MEETING DATE: April 11, 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

At the request of the interim City administrator, review options and provide direction to staff for the Astor Avenue Median Island Beautification and Speed Hump funding requests.

BACKGROUND:

On June 20, 2014, then Mayor Tina Baca Del Río brought the issue of speeding and erratic driving along Astor Avenue to staff's attention in a City Council Request Form (CRF). Mayor Del Río requested staff to look into the traffic safety problems along Astor Avenue and recommend solutions for improved safety and traffic calming.

Upon this request, staff initiated a request to the County Traffic Engineering to conduct assessments and traffic engineering reviews to identify issues. Through the course of the investigation, data gathering, and traffic engineering field reviews, it was determined that the issues along Astor Avenue are caused by high speed exhibition-type driving at the two skewed, multi approach and wide intersections of Astor/Couts/Gafford and Astor/Cowlin/Como. It was determined that these wide open intersections give exhibition drivers the opportunity for "donut tire markings driving" creating safety concerns for the community. Therefore, a report was prepared that summarized the findings and made the recommendation that a number of Traffic Calming measures be considered to restrict exhibition driving, to slow down traffic and restore safety.

Over the course of the next 18 months, several traffic calming options were considered and evaluated based on their advantages and disadvantages. The initial raised median option was reconsidered as it was discovered through detailed engineering that for the purposes of traffic calming it would be costly and it would have exceeded the then \$200,000 budget for the project. The modified approach would have brought the traffic

calming measures for \$11,000 which was well within budget and accomplished the same goal. The modified approach was approved by the Traffic Commission through a series of meetings that the community was notified. It was also approved by the Council.

ANALYSIS:

A. Astor Avenue Median Island Beautification

Since traffic calming measures were implemented, there has been an interest to still pursue the beautification component. At the request of the interim City Administrator, beautification of these striped traffic calming areas are being presented to Measure AA Committee for their review and direction for funding.

The total estimated project cost for the beautification based on the attached concept is \$375,000. The total project cost includes base construction, contingency, landscape architect and engineering design, construction management, inspection, project management and administration costs. If this budget request is approved, staff will submit it for final approval by the City Council for the next step to develop contract documents for final implementation.

Astor Avenue Speed Humps

Speed humps are used as a physical measure to reduce speeds in residential streets. Per Council direction, staff is also in the process of developing speed hump policy for the City. If approved by the traffic Commission and the Council, Astor Avenue is a candidate for speed hump installation. The current request is for a budget allocation for \$25,000 for 3 to 5 speed humps along Astor Avenue.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Budget request for each option is as follows:

Option A: Astor Medians Beautification: \$375,000

Option B: Astor Speed Humps: \$25,000

Option C: Option A + Option B: \$400,000

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve Option A only
2. Approve Option B only
3. Approve Option C
4. Deny all options and provide other direction

ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit 1-Landscape Concept