



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable City Council **Item No. _____**

FROM: Interim City Administrator

SUBJECT: Approve Astor Avenue Median Island Beautification and Speed Hump Installation Funding Requests

MEETING DATE: April 18, 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve funding requests for the Astor Avenue Median Island Beautification and Speed Hump Installation.

BACKGROUND:

On June 20, 2014, then Mayor Tina Baca Del Río raised concerns coming from residents regarding speeding and erratic driving along Astor Avenue to Staff's attention in a City Council Request Form (CRF). Mayor Baca Del Río requested Staff to look into traffic safety issues along Astor Avenue and recommend solutions for improved safety and traffic calming.

ANALYSIS:

Staff initiated a request to County Traffic Engineering to conduct analysis and assessment reviews in order to identify those issues that may be contributing to the perceived speeding and erratic driving along Astor Avenue. 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 Avenue, Coutts Avenue, and Gafford Street and also at Astor Avenue, Cowlin Avenue, and Como Street.

It was determined that these wide open intersections gave exhibition drivers the opportunity to screech their tires and create "donut tire markings," which in turn poses safety concerns for the community. Subsequently, 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 and to slow down traffic and restore safety.

In the ensuing 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 determined through detailed engineering that for the purposes of traffic calming, it would have been costly and would have exceeded the then \$200,000 budget that was allocated for this project. The modified approach was selected since the cost would have amounted to \$11,000, which was well within budget and accomplished the same goal. The modified approach was approved by the Traffic Commission and approved by the City Council.

For the Astor Avenue median island beautification, the total estimated project cost is \$375,000 based on the attached concept plan. The total project cost includes base construction, contingency, landscape architecture 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.

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 City 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.

It should be noted that approval of the \$25,000 at this time, allows that a budget be set aside for this work if it gets final approvals. Per the approved speed hump policy, the request must go through the process which includes receiving 67% resident petition, as well as Traffic Commission and City Council approval.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve staff recommendation
2. Reject staff recommendation
3. Provide staff with further direction

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approximately \$400,000 is estimated for the cost of the Astor Avenue Median Island Beautification (\$375,000) and the Astor Avenue speed hump installation (\$25,000). During its regularly scheduled meeting on April 11, 2017, the Measure AA Committee recommended funding for the above requested amount.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC GOALS:

This item is related to a specific 2012 Strategic Goal to “improve and maintain infrastructure and beautify our community.”

Approved by: Maryam Babaki, Director of Public Works and Development Services

Prepared by: Seung Yang, Associate Civil Engineer
Reviewed by: Vilko Domic, Finance Director
Approved as to form: Eduardo Olivo, City Attorney
Respectfully submitted: Matthew C. Rodríguez, Interim City Administrator

ATTACHMENT:

Exhibit 1-Landscape Concept