



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL **Item No.** _____

FROM: INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON BLVD PROJECT – LANDSCAPE
IMPROVEMENTS AT I-5 SB RAMPS AND WASHINGTON
BOULEVARD

MEETING DATE: August 15, 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve the following actions:

1. Approve the final Landscape Plans prepared by David Volz Landscape Architectural Consultant for landscape improvements requested by the City Council at I-5 Freeway south bound ramps (area west of I-5 Freeway Bridge);
2. Authorize staff to issue a contract change order in the amount of \$911,165.39 for Landscape and permit work; and 10% for contingencies in the amount of \$91,116.54, all of these amounts will be covered as part of the overall approved Washington Blvd budget.
3. Approve construction/permit-related work required by Caltrans in the amount of \$32,000 for Landscape Architect.
4. Authorize 10% for Construction Management/Inspection/Testing services in the amount of \$91,116.54, which will be added to the existing contract.
5. Authorize the use of previously approved budget and funding for the costs (no additional budget allocation is needed for the above costs, as these costs are accounted-for in previously approved fund allocation and contingency budgets).

BACKGROUND:

Washington Boulevard is a route of regional significance in the City of Commerce and the Gateway Area of Los Angeles County. Washington Boulevard serves as a key link for goods movement to and from the two major regional ports (Long Beach and Los Angeles), as well as goods movement to and from the two major regional Rail Road Yards. Washington Boulevard also serves as east-west arterial between I-5 and I-710 in the area. Because of such regional significance, the City has received grants and significant funding from Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority as well as a TCIF grant from California Transportation Commission to fund capacity

improvements along this corridor. Washington Boulevard construction is complete at this time and staff is working with the contractor and Southern California Edison for installation of new controllers for signals, as well as other punch list items. The Washington Boulevard project came in under budget, therefore, City of Commerce is putting the savings towards additional improvements and beautification efforts.

ANALYSIS:

As part of the on-going beautification program, City retained David Volz Landscape Design Firm to develop beautification elements as well as landscape concepts and plans for I-5 Freeway southbound ramp areas (areas west of I-5 Freeway Bridge). It was determined that that location served as one of the gateways to the City and that the landscape and beautification effort would enhance the City brand and image and further the City's long term economic development goals. These concepts were developed in working sessions with City's Beautification Committee. After the Committee and Council approvals, these concepts were developed further and submitted to Caltrans for its approval. Per the preliminary agreements with Caltrans, City of Commerce would get to develop its own landscape and beautification plans and would take over the maintenance of these areas after the construction. A maintenance agreement is required by Caltrans when a local agency would like to implement new landscaping, and upon execution of such agreement, Caltrans allows the improvements to be implemented and maintained by the local agency. This agreement has since been executed.

To further enhance the ramp landscaping, at City's request, City's consultant, Transtech initiated discussions with Caltrans for planting of trees on the center median island that extends from southbound ramps to City boundary. Previously, this median was approved as concrete. After meetings and discussions with Caltrans, a new plan showing planting trees and landscape in this median was submitted to Caltrans for their approval. Caltrans agreed to add this segment to the overall permit work for the landscaping.

Blodgett & Associates (Environmental Consultant, who had prepared the original EIR for Washington Boulevard Project), reviewed the addition of new landscaping and prepared the attached CEQA Addendum to the underlying EIR, indicating this work is exempt and can be added to the Project. The City Council approved the Addendum at its May 16, 2017 meeting.

Staff subsequently obtained detailed cost estimates through the Washington Boulevard general contractor Sully Miller for this work. The total estimated cost prepared by the Landscape Design Architect, David Volz and Associates, for the final improvements per final approved plans by Caltrans is \$1,125,398.47 (See Attachment 1). Cost proposal by Sully Miller is \$911,165.39 for Landscaping Permit work (See Attachment 2).

As a result of additional requests by City and Caltrans, Landscape Architect's scope was increased for the additional work, median addition, and SWPPP (Storm Water

Pollution Prevention Plan) in the amount of \$32,000 (See Attachment 3). The additional services included:

- Construction SWPPP
- Field reviews
- LS Architect support services
- Plant check/verification
- Plant location approvals
- Site visits
- Meetings with Caltrans
- Permit requirements Compliance check
- As-builts (from field red-lines by contractor)
- Architect of record services

The City had already allocated \$1,000,000 in FY 15/16 for the additional landscape work through Measure AA. However, due to cost savings from Washington Boulevard construction (resulting in \$1,000,000 savings back to Measure AA), the City is able to direct funds toward these landscaping and beautification efforts, . However, if Caltrans later decides that the cost should be paid 100% by City local funds in addition to the Washington Boulevard Project Funds, the funding will be adjusted accordingly and the costs will be charged to local funds.

The construction of landscape improvements is projected to take approximately 5 months.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approves staff's recommendation
2. Reject staff's recommendation
3. Provide staff with further direction

FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed activities are being carried out without additional impact on the current operating budget. The project was previously approved and included in the FY 2014/15 Capital Improvement Project Budget. This action will not require additional budget allocation at this point.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC GOALS:

The issue is applicable to the following Council's strategic goal: *"Improve and maintain infrastructure and beautify our community"* as identified in the 2012 Strategic Plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution

Attachment 1-Estimated cost by LS Design Architect
Attachment 2-Cost proposal by the Washington Blvd Contractor
Attachment 3-Additional LS Architect work increase
Attachment 4-Plans
Attachment 5-SWPPP
Attachment 6-Environmental Amendment

Respectfully submitted:
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Interim City Administrator

Recommended by:
Maryam Babaki
Director of PW/Dev Services

Reviewed by:
Vilko Domic, Finance Director

Approved as to form:
Eduardo Olivo, City Attorney