



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: City Administrator

SUBJECT: City Project No. 1401-Washington Boulevard Reconstruction Project –
Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report

MEETING DATE: September 23, 2014

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and File Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Prepared for the Washington Boulevard Improvement Project

ANALYSIS:

A Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) dated March 30, 2010 was adopted for City Project No. 1401-Washington Boulevard Reconstruction Project. On August 15, Staff directed Blodgett Baylosis Environmental Planning the producers of the Final EIR for City Project No. 1401 – Washington Boulevard Reconstruction Project to address additional possible construction impact.

Staff requested Blodgett Baylosis Environmental Planning to address the possibility for night time construction along the non-residential areas of the project, the number of lane reductions during construction, the level of noise inside the Sheila Street Apartments adjacent to the project area, and any environmental impact from reducing the number of travel lanes in the east direction to allow street parking in areas west of I-710.

A representative from Blodgett Baylosis Environmental Planning conducted field noise measurement on Thursday, August 21 between 7:00 pm and 7:30 pm. At the Sheila Street Apartment, these results are included in the “Attachment” to the Addendum”.

The following revisions to the Final EIR are recommended at this time:

1. Night time construction work.

The final EIR indicated that all construction activities must occur during the day-time periods. This mitigation measure should be revised to read as follows:

“Construction activities will be permitted on a 24-hour basis except for those roadway segment located immediately adjacent to the Sheila Apartments and the Ayers Neighborhood. The night-time and early morning construction prohibition would apply to 150-feet on either side of the roadways frontage with these residential land uses. Excessively loud activities(pavement grinding, use of jack-hammers, etc.) should still be limited to the day-time periods.”

2. Traffic control during construction

The Final EIR indicates that the traffic controls during construction must maintain at least 2 thru lanes in each direction. This mitigation was incorrect as written. The mitigation should have read:

“Traffic controls during construction must maintain at least 2 through travel lanes (1-lane each direction.)”

3. Elimination of third East-bound lane from West City Limit to west of 710 to create on street parking as well as a 10' wide painted center median lane to provide access to businesses:

“The previous EIR assumed that on-street parking along the south side of Washington Boulevard, located to the west of the I-710 Freeway, would be permitted during off-peak traffic periods only. This Addendum seeks to amend the EIR so that on-street parking will continue to be permitted along the south side of the street at all times. The continuation of the on-street parking lane on the south side of the street will provide a buffer between the sidewalk and the eastbound travel lanes. This minor revision will not lead to any additional congestion on Washington Boulevard since the eastbound lanes of this segment of Washington Boulevard generally accommodate truck traffic leaving the rail yard. Presently, on-street parking is not permitted on the north side of the street and this parking prohibition will remain unchanged. The 10-foot center median is designed to provide a safe and protected left turn lane to better facilitate safe access to the businesses located to the south of Washington Boulevard in this area.”

4. Noise improvements at Sheila Street Apartments:

“The noise measurements indicated that the additional noise attenuation suggested in the Final EIR was not required. The original mitigation should be eliminated”

ALTERNATIVES:

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

FISCAL IMPACT:

The implementation of the Addendum will produce a saving in construction cost as well as shorter construction duration.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC GOALS:

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

Recommended by: Maryam, Director of Public Works & Development Services

Prepared by: Staff Member's Wendell Johnson, Deputy Director of Engineering Services

Reviewed by: Vilko Domic, Finance Director

Approved as to form: Eduardo Olivo, City Attorney

Respectfully submitted: Jorge Rifá, City Administrator

ATTACHMENTS:

1. e.g. Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Prepared for the Washington Boulevard Improvement Project State Clearing House (SCH) N0. 2009011027t