



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

Item No.: _____

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: City Administrator

SUBJECT: ASTOR AVENUE MEDIAN ISLAND BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

MEETING DATE: April 17, 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. Approve Plans and Specifications for Astor Avenue Medians and Landscape Improvement on Astor Avenue at Coutts Avenue, and Astor Avenue at Como Street.
2. Authorize staff to issue a contract change order in the amount of \$200,000 on the existing FY 2017-18 Pavement Rehabilitation Program contract with Excel Paving Company for median construction and landscape work on Astor Avenue.
3. Authorize 10% for contingency in the amount of \$20,000 for any unforeseen items.
4. Authorize 10% for contingency in the amount of \$20,000 for construction management and inspection.

BACKGROUND:

On June 20, 2014, Council raised concerns regarding speeding and erratic driving along Astor Avenue to Staff's attention in a City Council Request Form (CRF) and requested that staff look into traffic safety issues along Astor Avenue and recommend solutions for improved safety and traffic calming measures.

Staff initiated a request to Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) 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 some of the issues along Astor Avenue were caused by high speed exhibition-type driving at the two skewed, multi-approach and wide intersections of Astor Avenue, Coutts Avenue, and Gafford Street, as well as at Astor Avenue, Cowlin Avenue, and Como Street. LACDPW completed a traffic calming

review and made recommendations for improvements on Astor Avenue between Hepworth Avenue and Barney 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 posed 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. At the time the intersections were re-designed to restrict exhibition driving through placement of striping and raised markers. However, the community expressed concern regarding the aesthetics of the re-designed intersections and requested that these areas be re-designed for beautification. As such, Council directed staff to develop landscape schemes that would enhance safety, beautify the area, as well as accommodate parking.

Based on this direction, staff retained Los West Landscape Architecture to develop medians as well as landscape concepts and plans for Astor Avenue at Coutts Avenue, and at Astor Avenue at Como Street. The design of the medians was developed to maximize parking, improve the sense of safety at the intersections, and beautify the community while eliminating impacts to drainage facilities. These concepts have been reviewed by the Beautification Committee.

ANALYSIS:

On February 6, 2018, the City Council approved the award of construction to Excel Paving Company for the FY 2017-2018 Annual Pavement Rehabilitation Program in which selected streets throughout the city are identified for pavement rehabilitation every year. Due to the similarity in scope of work and cost savings since the contractor is already mobilized in the area it is recommended to issue a change order to Excel Paving Company for the construction of the medians on Astor Avenue.

Excel Paving Company submitted a cost proposal in the amount of \$172,719.50 to complete the work (See Attachment 1). However, there will be additional costs related to the water meters and lines for irrigation and potentially electrical connections, traffic control, pavement repairs. Therefore, the base construction cost is established at \$200,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Staff has reviewed the proposed project and has determined that it is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section(s) 15302: Replacement or reconstruction; (c) Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approves Staff's Recommendation
2. Reject Staff's Recommendation
3. Provide Staff with Further Direction

FISCAL IMPACT

At this time there is no additional funding requested as this project has been previously approved \$400,000 for funding as part of the FY 2016-17 CIP Budget on May 2, 2017 and at this time there is \$350,000 remaining in the budget.

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"

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

Reviewed by: Vilko Domic, Finance Director

Approved as to form: Noel Tapia, City Attorney

Respectfully submitted by: Edgar P. Cisneros, City Administrator

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Cost proposal by Excel Paving Company
2. Renderings of Median and Landscape Improvements on Astor Avenue
3. Astor Avenue Medians Plans