



STAFF REPORT

Approving Plans and Specifications, Authorizing Advertisement for Sealed Bids, Approving Award of Contract to the Lowest Responsible Bidder for an Amount not to exceed \$125,000.00, Approving a Construction Contingency not to exceed \$12,500.00, and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract for El Camino Real/Fifth Avenue Safety Improvement Project, City Contract Number 437

September 23, 2003

Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Summary

City Contract Number 437 is a Federal Aid project for which \$80,000 in Hazard Elimination and Safety Program (HES) and \$40,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) grant funds have been obligated. The project provides for safety improvements at the intersection of El Camino Real and Fifth Avenue which include completion of a traffic signal and safety lighting. Currently there is an unprotected crosswalk across El Camino Real at the intersection. The project has a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal of 4%.

Background and Discussion

City Contract No. 437 provides for the installation of the remaining equipment for a traffic signal and improved safety lighting at the intersection of El Camino Real and Fifth Avenue. Caltrans has already installed the conduit, pull boxes, vehicle detection loops and stop limit line striping for the new traffic signal and safety lighting as part of a recent Caltrans rehabilitation project of El Camino Real. At that time, they encouraged local agencies to install traffic signals at existing unprotected crosswalks across El Camino Real. Belmont, in partnership with San Carlos, was in the process of constructing a Grade Separation Project for the Cal Train tracks crossing Ralston Avenue, Harbor Boulevard and Holly Street which included a bicycle and pedestrian undercrossing of the Cal Train tracks opposite this proposed traffic signal. Also, there are busy Samtrans bus stops on El Camino Real at each end of the crosswalk. Belmont agreed to complete the traffic signal if it obtained the required grant funding.

Staff applied for Hazard Elimination and Safety Program (HES) funds for a safety project to complete the signal to provide a protected crossing and improved lighting and applied for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) funds for a bicycle and pedestrian enhancement project. The applications stated that existing crosswalk is difficult to see since it is near the crest of a vertical curve in the grade of El Camino Real. Sight distance is very poor for traffic on the Fifth Avenue approach due to the view to the left being blocked by a bus shelter, shrubbery and building and due to the grade of El Camino Real cresting near the intersection. As recent as 11/03/01 a pedestrian using the crosswalk was hit by a vehicle and sustained injuries. A protected crossing of El Camino Real with links to Cal Train and Samtrans would promote use and operational efficiency of bicycle and pedestrian as well as public transit modes of transportation thereby relieving traffic congestion and improving air quality. A total of \$120,000 in Federal Aid funds were approved for the project of which \$80,000 are HES funds and \$40,000 CMAQ funds.

The Peninsula Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired has done an assessment of the site and found that audible signals are warranted for the crossing of El Camino Real. Therefore audible signals have been incorporated into the project.

The San Mateo County Mental Health Association is currently sponsoring the construction of a low-cost housing development off of El Camino Real next to the Cal Train pedestrian and bicycle undercrossing to tenants for which it provides services. The tenants will be using the crosswalk, especially when they use the bus to commute to and from work or other destinations.

The project has Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal of 4%. The goal is determined through annual updates of the Belmont's DBE program approved by Caltrans for Federal Aid projects. A bidder must achieve the goal or show proof of a good faith effort in order to be awarded the contract. On the recent bid of City Contract No. 439 only one of the three bidders achieved the 4% goal. This contract has a longer bid period, which will allow more opportunity for DBE firms to participate in the work bid.

Belmont has received authorization to proceed with construction of the project from Caltrans and the FHWA. The City Council approved the funding agreement with Caltrans at its regular meeting on June 10, 2003 and both parties have executed it.

The scheduled bid opening date is November 18, 2003. Assuming an acceptable bid is obtained, staff will award the contract by November 25, 2003, and execute the contract by December 9, 2003. The construction work is expected during the months of December 2003 through March 2004.

Caltrans is currently reviewing the staff's resubmittal for an encroachment permit. Should they have any further comments, staff expects to have sufficient time during the advertisement period to address them and revise the plans and specifications if necessary as well as to upgrade the Right-of-Way Certification upon receipt of the encroachment permit. The contractor will also

have to obtain an encroachment permit for construction of the project. Lane closures on El Camino Real will be restricted to the hours allowed in the encroachment permit. Access for emergency vehicles will be maintained.

Fiscal Impact

The final fiscal impact to the City’s budget after grant reimbursement will not exceed \$17,500. The engineer’s estimate for this work is \$125,000.00 based on bids received recently for similar work. A ten percent construction contingency will also be funded, up to \$12,500.00, based on the bid amount. Funding for this project will be budgeted from the following accounts:

234-4312-3083-9030 (Measure A Fund)	\$137,500
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The City will receive reimbursement as follows:

HES grant	\$ 80,000
CMAQ grant	<u>40,000</u>

TOTAL GRANT	\$120,000
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If the lowest responsible bid exceeds the engineer’s estimate, staff will bring a recommendation to Council either to award with justification or to reject all bids.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council approve City Contract Number 437, El Camino Real / Fifth Avenue Improvement Project. It is further recommended that the City Council authorize advertising for sealed bids from qualified construction contractors, and approve award of contract to the lowest responsible bidder for an amount not to exceed \$125,000.00. It is further recommended that Council authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with the lowest responsible bidder. Finally, it is recommended that the Council authorize a construction contingency of ten percent of the contract award to be administered by the City Manager to address unforeseen conditions during construction.

Alternatives

1. Refer back to staff for further information
2. Deny the request

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Attachments

1. Resolution

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Yoshida, P.E.
Senior Civil Engineer

Raymond E. Davis, III, PE, PTOE
Director of Public Works

Jere A. Kersnar
City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. _____
CITY OF BELMONT
San Mateo County California

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS, AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT FOR SEALED BIDS, APPROVING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$125,000.00, APPROVING A CONSTRUCTION CONTINGENCY NOT TO EXCEED \$12,500.00 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR ELCAMINO REAL/FIFTH AVENUE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, CITY CONTRACT NO. 437

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont has been approved for a total of \$120,000 in Hazard Elimination and Safety Program (HES) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) funds for the proposed safety improvements at the intersection of El Camino Real and Fifth Avenue; and,

WHEREAS, Caltrans obligated the HES and CMAQ funds for construction of the project on June 29, 2001; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Belmont and Caltrans have entered into a funding agreement for the construction of the project; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works has prepared plans and specifications for the project; and,

WHEREAS, Measure A Funds have been budgeted in Fiscal Year 2004 for this project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The City Council approves City Contract Number 437 plans and specifications.
2. The City Council authorizes advertisement for sealed bids from qualified construction contractors.
3. The City Council approves award of contract to the lowest responsible bidder for an amount not to exceed \$125,000.00.
4. The City Council authorizes the City Manager to execute a contract with the lowest responsible bidder.
5. The City Council authorizes a construction contingency of ten percent of the contract award to be administered by the City Manager during construction.
6. Funding shall be from Measure A Fund, Account No. 234-4312-3083-9030.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Belmont at a regular meeting thereof held on September 23, 2003, by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCIL MEMBER(S): _____

NOES, COUNCIL MEMBER(S): _____

ABSTAIN, COUNCIL MEMBER(S): _____

ABSENT, COUNCIL MEMBER(S): _____

City Clerk of the City of Belmont

APPROVED:

Mayor of the City of Belmont