Council Agenda #4B
Meeting of March 23, 2010

Staff Report

INFORMATIONAL REPORT FOR THE U.S. HIGHWAY 101 PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE BRIDGE PROJECT, CITY CONTRACT NUMBER 433

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

This report provides an update to the Council regarding the status of the project, and activities that have occurred since the last update to the City Council on February 23, 2010. Additional information regarding the appearance and alignment of the proposed bicycle and pedestrian trail, and construction updates are posted on the Hot Topics Section of the City Web page.

Background

The contractor had submitted most of the shop drawings, material certifications and construction schedule for the City's review and approval. It is anticipated that a full Notice to Proceed will be issued by the end of March. The issuance of the Notice to Proceed is a critical milestone since this will allow the contractor to start early without dragging the project into the next rainy season, and thus may prevent certain potential delay claims by the contractor in the future.

The contractor started clearing and grubbing along the freeway to avoid the bird nesting season. A biological inspection showed no signs of bird nesting within the work area. The trees along Ralston Avenue are scheduled to be removed by Davey Tree Company in the third week of March. As mentioned in our last staff report, the project plan is to re-landscape this area to match the landscaping to be constructed with the Highway 101/Ralston Avenue Interchange Project that is administered by the City of Redwood City. This landscaping will be located between the proposed trail and the residences.

PG&E has scheduled to relocate one of their overhead power poles at 401 Wessex Way this month. This work has been coordinated with the property owners and the necessary easements have been acquired. Part of the existing sound wall will be removed at this location for the construction of the bridge structure.

Public Works staff and the on-site City Representative from S&C Engineering have also met with sports group representatives at a Parks and Recreation Department meeting on February 18, 2010. In the meeting, staff provided general information on the proposed construction of the pre-fabricated steel bridge across the O'Neill Slough and how it will affect the Sports Complex.

Only questions about the construction schedule and location of the project were raised during the meeting. A follow up meeting is expected in June with this group. Use of the Sports Complex will continue during construction.

Discussion

The contractor had potholed the utilities in the area and found that there are several high voltage power lines and fiber optic lines in the vicinity of a major column. Staff and S&C Engineers are working with PG&E and AT&T to expedite the relocation of these utilities. The contractor has listed the drilling of this column as the first item of work. This utility conflict can cause delay to the project which has the potential to increase the cost of the project. This issue is currently the number one priority issue to be resolved for the project.

A second neighborhood meeting took place on March 16, 2010. All residents east of El Camino Real were notified. In this meeting several issues were discussed:

- Construction schedule and timeline
- Proposed construction activities
- Location of proposed construction activities
- Overnight construction work
- Construction noise

Staff gathered information and feedback from this meeting and will provide the Council an update in the next informational report.

Staff has also completed the award package that was submitted to Caltrans for approval on March 9, 2010. Together with this package is a request to allow the use of Federal funds for additional contingency and increased oversight cost for the project. Additional contingency higher than the typical 10% limit may be needed due to the complexity of the project or higher than anticipated changes in the work scope.

General Plan/Vision Statement

The installation of bicycle pathways complies with the General Plan. Circulation Element Goal #10: *"To provide a system of hiking and riding trails, pedestrian paths, bicycle paths and lanes to: a) Provide recreation, particularly scenic, quiet, leisurely neighborhood walks and rides; b) Furnish easy access to trails from individual properties; c) Permit safe, pleasant travel among parts of the community; d) Connect local areas within the City to through trails and paths and regional trail and path systems."*

Fiscal Impact

The construction cost of $5,251,357 and construction management services cost of $1,133,467 will be paid from the Bicycle Bridge Project (Measure A/Grants) Account 334-3-730-3091-9030 with reimbursement as allowed by Caltrans from Federal funds. Part of the cost will be Federal

and State reimbursable. The $400,000 Redevelopment Agency funds previously authorized for use for the project can also be used if the Federal reimbursement is not allowed and additional funds are needed.

Public Contact
Posting of the City Council Agenda.

Recommendation
This report is an informational update to the Council for the U.S. Highway 101 Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Project, City Contract Number 433.

Alternatives
1. Refer back to staff for additional information.

Attachments
1. Outreach Plan

Respectfully submitted,

Gilbert Yau, PE Senior Civil Engineer	Carlos de Melo Acting Public Works Director	Don Mattei Acting City Manager

Staff contact:
Gilbert Yau
Senior Civil Engineer
(650) 595-7467
gyau@belmont.gov

PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE OVERCROSSING
PUBLIC OUTREACH PLAN

	MAILING	TELEMINDER	DOOR TO DOOR FLYER	CONSTRUCTION HOTLINE	WEBSITE UPDATE
PROJECT STATUS UPDATE					X
NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY MEETING	X	X			X
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES NOTIFICATION (COMMUNITY WIDE)		X		X	X
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES NOTIFICATION (ADJOINING PROPERTIES)			X		X

The following means of communication will be used to update the public about the project:

1. Mailing - Notification for public meetings will be mailed to all residents within 500 feet of the project.
2. Teleminder - Messages will be sent by phone to notify all residents in the Sterling down and Homeview Neighborhood about any public meetings and construction activities that may impact the overall neighborhood. This may include traffic lane closures, construction activities along the freeway ramps which will have noise impact, etc.
3. Door to Door Flyer - Public Works staff will hand out flyers to those properties directly affected by upcoming activities.
4. Website - The City website at www.belmont.gov will have an update of the project for anyone who is interested.
5. Construction Hotline - The Public Works Construction Hotline at (650) 610-5715 will have an update for the project.

For information regarding the Bike Bridge Project, the following contacts are provided:

Contact:

1. Construction Hotline No. (650) 610-5715
2. Public Works email address pworks@belmont.gov