



PARKS & RECREATION

COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: January 28, 2004

ITEM NUMBER: 9c

SUBJECT: BICYCLE TRAIL AND LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS ON THE WEST SIDE OF SOUTHBOUND NEWPORT BOULEVARD FRONTAGE ROAD BETWEEN ARLINGTON DRIVE AND FAIR DRIVE

DATE: JANUARY 16, 2004

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT - TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: WILLIAM J. MORRIS, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: PETER NAGHAVI, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES MANAGER, 714-754-5182

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the landscape-planting palette for the parkway on southbound Newport Boulevard Frontage Road between Arlington Drive and Fair Drive.

BACKGROUND:

At the May 2000 Council Study Session, staff presented a report providing a status on the landscape demonstration projects. One of the project sites identified in the report is the parkway on the west side of the southbound Newport Boulevard Frontage Road between Arlington Drive and Fair Drive, adjacent to the Orange County Fairgrounds. All other landscape improvement projects within the report have been completed with the exception of Newport Boulevard.

The Newport Boulevard southbound frontage road serves as an important gateway to the City of Costa Mesa as well as the Orange County Fairgrounds. The existing asphalt bike trail on the west side of the southbound Newport Boulevard frontage road between Arlington Drive and Fair Drive is in a poor condition and requires total reconstruction. Several alternative alignments for the proposed new trail as well as landscape improvements in this area has been discussed both internally within the City and with Fairgrounds staff.

On July 21, 2003, the City Council selected Alternative A (Attachment 1) as the preferred alternative for the implementation of the improvements and also awarded a professional services contract to Boyle Engineering for design of improvements. During the same meeting, the Council approved a cooperative agreement between the City and 32nd District Agricultural Association (Fairgrounds) defining the roles and responsibilities of each agency towards the construction and maintenance of the improvements. As per the agreement, the City will construct the improvements and the Fairgrounds will be responsible for maintenance.

Since then, the design of the bicycle trail has been completed and the City recently advertised the project for construction. Another separate contract is being prepared for the landscape part of this project. Attachment 2 provides detail on the landscape improvements proposed.

A presentation to the Orange County Fairgrounds' Building & Grounds Committee was made on December 10, 2003, providing information on the bicycle trail and landscape improvements. The Fairgrounds' staff and committee members have provided their approval of the improvements.

ANALYSIS:

As part of the bicycle trail and landscape improvement project on Newport Boulevard, a majority of the existing trees (40) and all shrubs between Arlington Drive and Fair Drive will be removed, in addition to the existing concrete sidewalk and asphalt bicycle trail. The trees are White Alders and the shrubs are Natal Plum. All the existing trees and shrubs are located within the Fairgrounds' property and not maintained by the City. The removal of the trees as part of the bicycle trail and landscape project was approved by the Fairgrounds' Board.

The area between the curb and Fairgrounds fence will be re-graded and a new 8-foot wide concrete multi-purpose trail will be installed approximately 7-feet from the existing curb, creating a 7-foot wide and 10-foot wide planting area on each side of the new trail. New landscaping in the form of turf, shrubs as well as trees will be installed throughout the area. In addition, a new irrigation system will be installed to accommodate the proposed landscape improvements.

As depicted in the Attachment 2, a total of 81 trees will be planted. Between the curb and bicycle trail, 34 Crape Myrtle trees will be planted. In this section, other landscaping includes a combination of turf and flowering shrubs. The shrubs selected are Gazania, Heliotrope and Day Lily. Between the bicycle trail and Fairgrounds fence, 39 Eucalyptus Ficifolia trees will be planted. The shrubs in this area will be Raphiolepis Springtime.

In addition to landscape improvements along the bicycle trail, entry treatments will be provided at the intersections of Arlington Drive -Newport Boulevard South Frontage Road, and Mesa Drive - Newport Boulevard South Frontage Road. These consist of selected trees, shrubs.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

One alternative is to not implement the project. However, this will result in returning the grant secured from California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for bicycle trail improvements and continued lack of attractive streetscape along this major entry way to the City.

FISCAL REVIEW:

The City of Costa Mesa secured a Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) grant from Caltrans for a total amount of \$207,090 to reconstruct the existing asphalt bicycle trail on the west side of the southbound Newport Boulevard frontage road. Landscape improvements are being implemented using City funds allocated for streetscape improvements.

LEGAL REVIEW:

There are not legal issues with this item. An agreement between the City and the Fairgrounds has been previously approved to provide for construction and maintenance of the new improvements.

CONCLUSION:

The Newport Boulevard bicycle trail and landscape improvements project will enhance the streetscape along this important gateway to the City. Staff has secured BTA grant funds from Caltrans to supplement the City funds for the project. The improvement plans have been presented to Orange County Fairgrounds staff and their Building and Grounds Committee, and have received approval for the proposed improvements. The City Council approved a cooperative agreement between the City and Fairgrounds defining the roles and responsibilities of each agency towards the construction and maintenance of the improvements.

PETER NAGHAVI, MANAGER
Transportation Services Division

WILLIAM J. MORRIS
Director of Public Services

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File

ATTACHMENTS: 1 [Improvement Alternative A](#)
2 [Proposed Landscape Plan](#)

File Name

Date

Time