



DATE: March 6, 2018

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: Community Services

TITLE: **Castro Street Median Landscape Improvements, Project 16-19 – Approve Plans and Specifications and Related Actions**

RECOMMENDATION

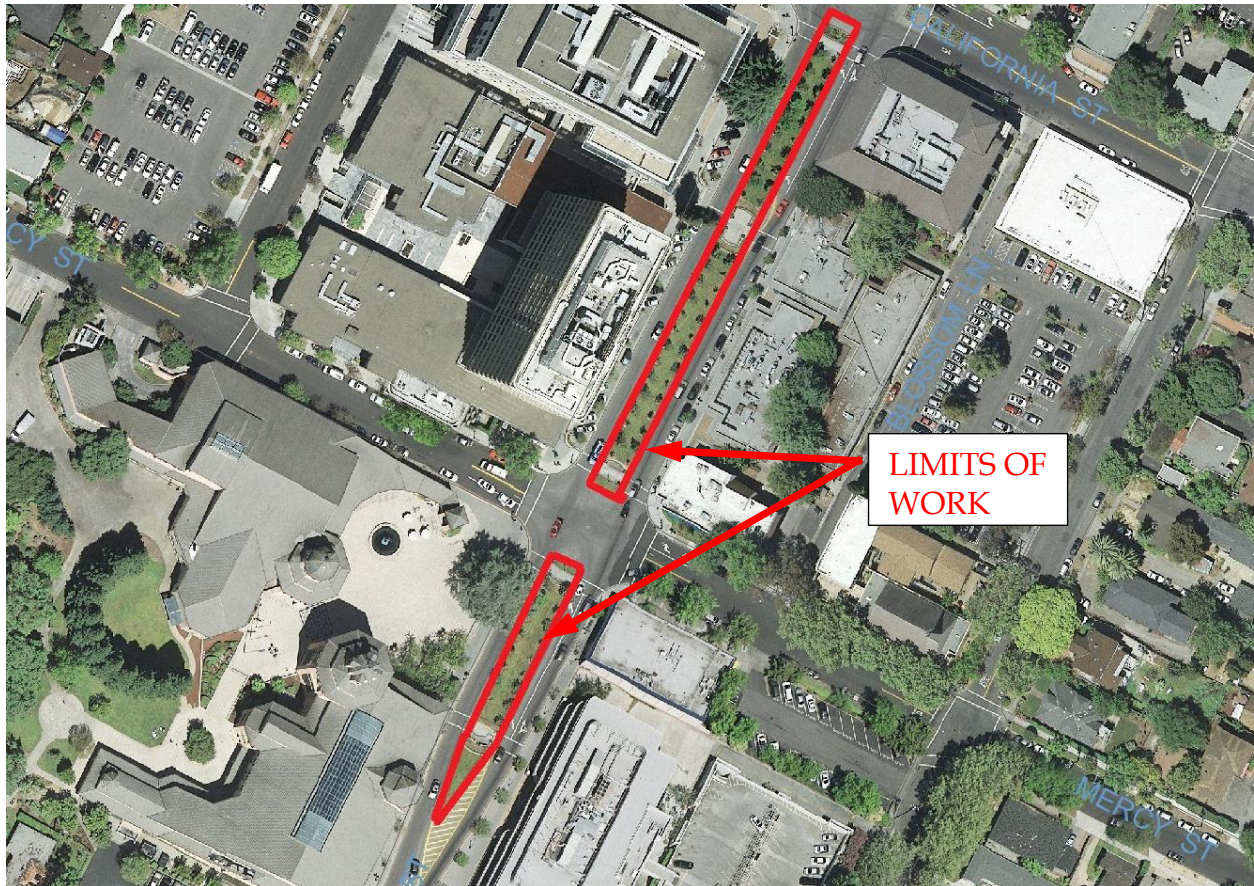
1. Appropriate and transfer the balance of approximately \$21,175 from 2015-16 Parks Pathway Resurfacing, Project 16-07, and approximately \$63,000 from 2016-17 Parks Pathway Resurfacing, Project 17-07, to Castro Street Median Landscape Improvements, Project 16-19.
2. Approve plans and specifications for Castro Street Median Landscape Improvements between California and Church Streets, Project 16-19, and authorize staff to advertise the project for bids.
3. Authorize the City Manager to award the construction contract to the lowest responsible bidder if the low bid is within the project budget.

BACKGROUND

The Castro Street medians were installed in 1990 as part of the overall renovation of the downtown streetscape. The medians had turf lined with two rows of ornamental cherry trees with up-lighting. During the recent five-year drought, the State of California enacted rules prohibiting the irrigation of ornamental turf in medians. Both the turf and trees succumbed to the drought.

Castro Street Median Landscape Improvements, Project 16-19, was created to enhance the aesthetics of the medians by planting low-water-use trees and plants to provide visual interest. The project design provides gentle curving swaths of California native plantings with Mediterranean grasses and shrubs for accent and color. The design also includes planting large-scale cork oak trees in an alternating pattern to provide an increased canopy cover on the medians.

The City Council approved the design concept plan on April 18, 2017 (Attachment 1), and Callander Associates prepared the plans and specifications for bidding the project. The limits of work are shown below.



Castro Street Median Landscape Improvements

ANALYSIS

The Engineer’s Estimate includes traffic control, demolition, upgraded drip irrigation, new plant material, and electrical conduit and fixtures for up-lighting the trees. Since the project has a narrow window for construction to avoid interference with summer activities on Castro Street, Forestry maintenance crews will remove the existing trees an estimated one to two months prior to construction to expedite the construction phase and minimize cost. The City will also provide the new trees for the project from the Forestry Maintenance Program and Street Tree Planting Capital Improvement Project for additional cost savings and to ensure quality control and timely delivery of the trees.

Use of native and Mediterranean plantings and drip irrigation will help reduce water usage compared to the water needs of the turf being replaced. Staff will submit an application through the Santa Clara Valley Water District Landscape Rebate Program. The rebate provides for \$1 per square foot reimbursement for conversion of 12,000 square feet of the Castro Street medians.

Project Cost Estimate

Construction	\$470,000
Construction Contingency (10%)	47,000
Construction Inspection and Testing	40,000
Miscellaneous	<u>6,000</u>
Subtotal	\$563,000
City Administration	<u>37,000</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COST	<u>\$600,000</u>

Project Schedule

If Council approves the recommended action and responsive bids within budget are received, construction could begin in late April and be completed by the middle of June 2018. Outreach will be conducted before the project begins to keep the public informed.

CEQA

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, this project has been determined to be categorically exempt under Section 15303 as minor alterations to land.

FISCAL IMPACT

Castro Street Median Landscaping Improvements are funded with \$520,000 from the Biennial Median Renovation, Project 16-19 (available balance of approximately \$208,000) and Project 18-19 (\$312,000). Supplemental unused funds are proposed to be transferred from the Parks Pathway Projects, Project 16-07 (\$21,175) and Project 17-07 (\$63,000), bringing the total project funding to \$604,000.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Direct staff to reduce scope of work.
2. Provide other direction.

PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting.

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BH/AF/2/CAM
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Attachments: 1. Approved Conceptual Design