



**MEMORANDUM**

Public Works Department

**DATE:** December 13, 2017

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission and Urban Forestry Board

**FROM:** Ashok Aggarwal, Senior Traffic Engineer  
Sayed Fakhry, City Traffic Engineer

**SUBJECT:** Modifications to Grant/Phyllis/Martens Intersection, Project 15-31

**RECOMMENDATION**

Review the proposed Heritage tree mitigation for Modifications to Grant/Phyllis/Martens Intersection, Project 15-31, and forward a recommendation to the City Council to approve staff-recommended mitigation for removal of one Heritage tree with one-to-one replacement and planting a 24" box golden rain tree.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

As part of the Capital Improvement Program 2014-15, City Council approved a new capital improvement project for modifying the intersection of Grant Road and Phyllis Avenue/Martens Avenue.

Modifications to Grant/Phyllis/Martens Intersection, Project 15-31, include the following improvements:

1. Installation of a new eight-phase traffic signal replacing the existing aging six-phase traffic signal. The existing signal operates with split phase for Martens Avenue and Phyllis Avenue, causing congestion at the intersection and delays to traffic in all the four directions. A new signal will reduce delays and congestion, thus enhancing overall safety.
2. Removal of pork chop islands and tightening the curb radii at both the corners of Grant Road and Phyllis Avenue to eliminate free right turns and reduce vehicle speed, thus enhancing pedestrian safety.
3. Construction of a new sidewalk on the north side of Martens Avenue from Grant Road to Carmelita Drive, providing pedestrian access which will help remove

pedestrians walking within the street and enhancing pedestrian safety and provide a safe route to Huff School.

4. Related signing, striping, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant wheelchair ramps.
5. Restriping Martens Avenue to add an exclusive left-turn lane to accommodate new eight-phase signal movements.
6. Removing the existing median on Phyllis Avenue and constructing a new median (thus removing one Heritage tree) to add an exclusive left lane to accommodate new eight-phase signal movements and add a bike lane to help improve bicycle safety.

Adding an exclusive left-turn lane and a bike lane on Phyllis Avenue requires more room and therefore it became essential to remove the existing median on Phyllis Avenue and reconstruct a new median north of its current location. Reconstruction of the median requires removal of the trees (See Attachment 1 for existing conditions and Exhibit 2 showing proposed improvements).

The existing median has six ornamental pear trees. Five (5) of the trees vary in circumference between 6.5" and 43". One tree has a circumference of 64" and is considered a Heritage tree. See Attachment 3 showing the location of the Heritage tree planned for removal in red and the non-Heritage trees in blue. Staff has met with the Parks and Open Space Manager to discuss the removal of the Heritage tree as well as the removal of the other five non-Heritage trees.

The new median provides limited space for replacement trees. As mitigation, the Parks and Open Space Manager recommends a one-to-one replacement ratio for the one Heritage tree and the five non-Heritage trees. The recommended mitigation for the Heritage tree is one 24" box golden rain tree (*koelreuteria paniculata*). The recommended mitigation for the five non-Heritage trees is five 15-gallon golden rain trees in the new median on Phyllis Avenue, as shown in Attachment 3. The Urban Forestry Board's recommendation for mitigation will be forwarded to the City Council.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The Modifications to Grant/Phyllis/Martens Intersection, Project 15-31, is funded with \$300,000 from the Google funding, \$597,000 from the Construction/Conveyance Tax, and \$52,000 from the El Camino Hospital contribution, for total funding of \$949,000.

Tree removal and mitigation will be included in the construction documents and funded from the construction budget.

### **PUBLIC NOTICING**

In addition to the standard agenda posting, staff posted notice on the Heritage tree identifying it for removal and provided information for attending this meeting. Information related to the tree removal was also posted on the City's Parks web page under *Heritage Trees*.

AA-SF/AF/3/CSD

224-12-13-17M-E

Attachments: 1. Existing Conditions  
2. Proposed Improvements  
3. Tree Map

cc: PWD, APWD – Solomon, POSM, CTE, STE – Aggarwal, F/c