



DATE: November 10, 2015

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: Public Works

TITLE: **Crosswalk Improvements at W. Middlefield Road/Independence Avenue and Thaddeus Drive, Project 15-23 – Approve Plans/Specifications and Authorize Bidding**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Transfer and appropriate \$84,000 from Shoreline Crosswalk Improvements Project, Project 14-53, and \$15,000 from Neighborhood Traffic Management Program, Project 13-15, to Crosswalk Improvements at W. Middlefield Road/Independence Avenue and Thaddeus Drive, Project 15-23. (Five votes required)
2. Approve plans and specifications for the Crosswalk Improvements at W. Middlefield Road/Independence Avenue and Thaddeus Drive, Project 15-23, 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 total project budget.

BACKGROUND

On November 13, 2013, the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (B/PAC) recommended to the Council Transportation Committee (CTC) that a crosswalk improvement project at the intersection of West Middlefield Road/Independence Avenue and Thaddeus Drive receive Fiscal Years 2013-14 and 2014-15 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article funding. The estimated cost of the project was \$184,000—the total anticipated amount of TDA funding available for those two fiscal years.

The CTC forwarded a similar recommendation to the City Council, which created TDA Project—W. Middlefield Road/Independence Avenue and Thaddeus Drive, with \$184,000 of TDA funding.

ANALYSIS

The subject intersection is unsignalized with painted crosswalks in all four directions and static pedestrian crossing warning signs. It is located near Thaddeus Park. Many families with kids frequent this park on a daily basis and the number of pedestrians crossing West Middlefield Road is relatively high. This intersection is on the Monta Loma Elementary Walk and Bike to School Safe Route Map. West Middlefield Road is a wide street with two travel lanes, a left-turn lane and a bike lane in each direction, and the road is curved. Many drivers come around the corner and do not pay attention to existing marked crosswalk and signage.

Staff believes that the recommended improvements are warranted to help improve driver awareness about the presence of the crosswalk. Additionally, staff continues to get many requests to make pedestrian improvements, including installing In-Roadway Warning Lights (IRWLs) and LED-enhanced pedestrian crossing warning signs at this location.

The project proposes to install IRWLs, LED-enhanced pedestrian crossing warning signs, pedestrian push buttons (PPB), improved signage and striping, widening the existing median islands close to the intersection to create better pedestrian refuge, and constructing American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb ramps at all four corners.

The IRWLs and LED-enhanced pedestrian crossing signs will work by activating a PPB. The signs and the IRWLs will flash long enough for a pedestrian to cross West Middlefield Road. The flashing lights will be visible for a distance of approximately 500', warning and attracting driver attention to the presence of pedestrians and bicyclists.

The B/PAC reviewed the project on June 14, 2015, and the B/PAC's recommendations are included in the recommended design.

The estimated cost of the project is as follows:

Construction	\$190,000
Construction Contingency	19,000
Design	21,000
City Inspection	21,000
Project Management	<u>14,000</u>
Subtotal	265,000
City Administration @ 6.5%	<u>18,000</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COST	<u>\$283,000</u>

The project budget is \$184,000 and the estimated cost of the project is \$283,000, leaving a funding gap of \$99,000. The initial estimate was based on previous projects that had either flashing signs or IRWLs, but not both. Several factors have increased the cost over the initial estimate, including: (1) inclusion of both the flashing signs and the IRWLs; (2) modifications to existing catch basins; (3) modifications to the existing medians; and (4) adding ladder stripes and repainting crosswalks and related cost increase to construction contingency, project management, design, inspection, and administration costs because these costs are based on the construction cost.

Based on comments from the B/PAC and the community, and on further consideration during design, staff recommends both flashing signs and IRWLs. The street is relatively wide, volumes are relatively high, and the street has a curved alignment that presents sight distance challenges. Staff believes that both types of flashing indicators are warranted.

Plans and specifications for the project are complete and available for viewing in the Public Works Department.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, this project has been found to be categorically exempt under Section 15301 as the project involves minor alterations to the existing facility to improve public safety.

If Council approves the recommended actions, construction is expected to begin in January 2016 and be completed by April 2016, weather permitting.

FISCAL IMPACT

Crosswalk Improvements at W. Middlefield Road/Independence Avenue and Thaddeus Drive, Project 15-23, is currently funded with \$184,000 from TDA funding. The estimated project cost is \$283,000, leaving a funding shortfall of approximately \$99,000. The recommended actions would transfer \$99,000 from Shoreline Crosswalk Improvements Project, Project 14-53, and from Neighborhood Traffic Management Program, Project 13-15, to fully fund the project. No new funds are required.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Modify the proposed project to bring it within budget. The following modifications to the proposed improvements would need to be made to do so: (1) do not install IRWLs; (2) do not make any improvements to the medians; and (3) do not improve/restripe crosswalks except the one on Thaddeus Drive.
2. Do not proceed with the project.
3. Provide other direction.

PUBLIC NOTICING

Agenda posting and noticing for this meeting included an announcement on the City's website. Also, residents who have expressed an interest in this project were notified via e-mail about the meeting.

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SF/TS/7/CAM/902-11-10-15CR-E

cc: Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee

CTE, PCE – Macaraeg, STE – Lopez, STE – Aggarwal, F(15-23)