



City of Santa Barbara

Architectural Board of Review

Staff Report

MEETING DATE: November 23, 2015

TO: Architectural Board of Review Members

FROM: Eric Goodall, Project Engineer

SUBJECT: Lower Milpas Pedestrian Improvement Project

RECOMMENDATION

That the Architectural Board of Review (ABR) receive a presentation on the Lower Milpas Pedestrian Improvement Project (Project) and provide direction on landscaping areas, median treatment, pedestrian channelization fence, parking lot configuration, and retaining wall.

BACKGROUND

Project Location

The Project is located along the east side of Milpas Street between Cabrillo Boulevard and the U.S. Highway 101 on/off ramps, located just north of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR). Additional sidewalk will be installed along Calle Puerto Vallarta between Milpas Street and Dwight Murphy Park.

Project Purpose

Milpas Street is one of the main neighborhood commercial corridors of the City. Milpas Street is a complete street with Class 2 bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides for the majority of the corridor, except for the portions of the corridor south of the UPRR. This missing link of sidewalk creates a significant barrier and potential safety hazard for East Beach families walking to Cleveland Elementary School and Santa Barbara Junior High. Families are forced to walk along the curb, walk in the parkways, the street, and across the train tracks before they arrive at sidewalk at the intersection of Milpas and Indio Muerto Streets. From this intersection, students travel one more block to Cacique Street, then head east several blocks until arriving at the rear entrance of Cleveland Elementary School. These missing sidewalk links are also barriers to hotel guests in the East Beach area to reach commercial and recreational amenities near Milpas Street. The additional missing links along Calle Puerto Vallarta create a barrier between hotel guests and residents in the eastside and East Beach area who desire to walk to Dwight Murphy Park and the Santa Barbara Zoo.

Project Funding

The Project is fully funded by Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant funds in the amount of \$1,097,000 for both design and construction. The purpose of the ATP Program is to increase the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking, increase the safety of non-motorized users, achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals, enhance public health, and benefit disadvantaged (minority and low-income) communities.

Project Description

The Project will construct sidewalk infill along the length of Milpas Street from the U.S. Highway 101 on/off ramp to Cabrillo Boulevard, and along Calle Puerto Vallarta from Milpas Street to Por La Mar Drive. The Project also involves a pedestrian lighting corridor along Milpas Street and Calle Puerto Vallarta. The Project will improve pedestrian travel and access to the beachfront, downtown, the Santa Barbara Zoo, and schools for eastside residents. In addition to sidewalk and lighting, there will be parking lot improvements constructed at Tri-County Produce, due to the impact the new sidewalk will have on their current parking lot configuration.

The Project includes the following activities: demolition of existing pavement; installation of new curb and gutter on Milpas Street between Calle Puerto Vallarta and U.S. Highway 101; construction of a median island near the UPRR tracks; new sidewalk and access ramps; installation of irrigation and landscaping; and installation of pedestrian lighting. Approximately 10 light poles will be installed. The excavation depth to install street light pole foundations is approximately five feet. In general, excavation depths for the Project will be approximately two feet, although deeper excavations of up to approximately three feet may be required to incorporate on-site storm water retention/treatment as required by the Storm Water Management Plan.

The limits of the Project extend north to the intersection of Milpas Street and U.S. Highway 101 on/off ramps, east on Calle Puerto Vallarta to Por La Mar Drive, and south to the intersection of Milpas Street and Cabrillo Boulevard. All proposed improvements will be constructed on areas that have been previously disturbed. Most improvements are proposed within existing road right of way, with construction on private property only occurring as a means to tie into existing structures, or as required at the Tri-County Produce parking lot.

Construction is anticipated to take approximately 75 working days to complete (15 weeks).

Project Studies

As is standard for all Public Works Projects, the requirements of the Storm Water Management Program must be met, including Tier 3 Compliance for projects installing over 500 square feet of new impervious surface. A list of hazardous waste and substances is included as a part of the Storm Water Management Report.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The City's Environmental Analyst has determined, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Guidelines, Section 15301(c) and 15302(c), the project is categorically exempt. Section 15301(c) consists of operation, repair, and maintenance of existing streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities as well as road grading for the purpose of public safety. Section 15302(c) consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced, including but not limited to replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Over the past few months, City representatives met with every resident directly impacted by the proposed Project at their residence, to discuss possible impacts and conflicting existing structures. The City also held a community informational meeting on October 27, 2015 at Franklin Elementary to update residents on the current design.

CONCLUSION

Public Works requests design and landscaping review and recommendations to allow the project to move forward in a timely manner.

Attachments

1. Project Plans and Photos

EG/sk