



City of Santa Barbara

Historical Landmarks Commission

Staff Report

MEETING DATE: October 10, 2016

TO: Historic Landmarks Commission Members

FROM: Public Works Department
Ashleigh Shue, Supervising Civil Engineer

SUBJECT: Las Positas/Modoc Road Multiuse Path Project (MST2014-00055)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Historic Landmarks Commission review and accept the Archaeological Survey Report (ASR) and Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR) for the Las Positas/Modoc Road Multiuse Path Project.

BACKGROUND AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Las Positas/Modoc Road Multiuse Path Project (Project) has been in various City planning documents since 1974, primarily as a Class I Bike Path. The Project is identified in the City's Six Year Capital Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2014-2019, Bicycle Master Plan, and the Pedestrian Master Plan.

In May 2014, the Public Works Department submitted an Active Transportation Program (ATP) Grant application for the Project. In September 2014, the City was awarded \$1,372,000 in ATP funds for the environmental and final design phases of the Project. 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.

The Project includes the planning, environmental review, and design phases for a separated pathway for bicyclists, runners, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities along Las Positas and Modoc Roads. The Project begins on Modoc Road at the western City limits (Calle de los Amigos) and continues east for approximately one mile toward the intersection of Modoc and Las Positas Roads, then continues south for approximately 1.6 miles along Las Positas Road to Cliff Drive.

The Project will provide key connections among Santa Barbara's regional Cross-town and Coastal Bike Routes, the neighborhoods adjacent to the path, Elings Park, Arroyo Burro Beach County Park, and the Douglas Family Preserve. In addition to the multiuse path itself, the Project will include connection points to other bikeways and adjacent neighborhood sidewalks, which may include intersection improvements, as necessary, to enhance the multiuse path. The path will also tie into the roundabout at the intersection of Las Positas Road and Cliff Drive that is planned for construction in late 2016/early 2017.

Construction funding for the Project has not yet been identified. Construction costs for the Project are estimated to be \$15 million. City staff has applied for construction funding through the next ATP grant cycle, with results expected in late October. Due to the size and scale of this Project, it may have to be constructed in phases. The City's Draft Bicycle Master Plan anticipates the project to be completed between 2020 and 2025.

HPSR/ASR:

An Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR) and Archeological Survey Report (ASR) were prepared for this Project. These reports document background research, consultation with local Native American representatives, and field studies for the proposed project. The reports were prepared by Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (Æ) under the supervision of Principal Archaeologist Clayton G. Lebow, a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA).

Based on these reports, no historic resources were identified with Project boundaries and the potential for encountering buried, previously undetected prehistoric archaeological resources during construction is considered low. This conclusion is based on the results of background research, field survey, prior creek bank alterations, and construction and modification to the existing roadways. Field survey identified no prehistoric materials within the Area of Potential Effect (APE).

Reports of previous archaeological investigations in the Project vicinity, including several survey, testing, and construction monitoring efforts, have identified no potentially significant buried prehistoric archaeological resources closer than 25 meters (82 feet) from the edge of the APE, at the intersection of Las Positas Road and Cliff Drive. Although a known archaeological site exists near the APE at the intersection of Las Positas Road and Cliff Drive, a review of background literature for the site indicates that most of the known deposits are located across a road and well outside of the APE. Careful examination of the APE at this intersection revealed evidence of recent utility excavations and landscaping. No cultural material was observed. The APE in the vicinity of this intersection area has been significantly modified by the construction of roads and utilities, and it is unlikely that intact archaeological deposits from the nearby site will be impacted by Project activities.

No historical archaeological resources were identified during surface survey. Historical map and archival research indicates that it is unlikely that such resources are present within the APE at locations where ground disturbance is proposed. The nearest historic resource is the former site of the Veronica Springs Medicinal Water Company, across Arroyo Burro Creek west of the APE. This resource has been recommended as eligible for the California Register of Historic Resources and National Register of Historic Places.

Æ contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on September 24, 2015, to request a review of the Sacred Lands File for sacred or sensitive Native American areas that may be within or near the Las Positas Multiuse Path APE. In a reply dated September 28, 2015, the NAHC stated that a records search of the Sacred Lands File failed to indicate the presence of Native American traditional sites/places in the immediate project area. NAHC did, however, provide contact information for organizations and individuals that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area and recommended they be contacted for additional information.¹

Æ sent a letter to each of these individuals and organizations on the NAHC list requesting comments regarding sensitive cultural resources within or near the project area. Follow-up telephone calls to those who had not yet responded were placed in November 2015. Responses were received via electronic mail from one individual and via telephone from two individuals or organizations. These are as follows:

¹ The City is initiating AB 52 tribal consultation under a separate track, consistent with applicable statutes and requirements.

- Freddie Romero, Cultural Resources Liaison for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (SYBCI), responded by phone on October 21, 2015, on behalf of the Elders Council, including Joe Talaugon and Adelina Alva-Padilla; and on behalf of the Business Council, including Vincent Armenta and Sam Cohen. Romero stated that SYBCI defers comment to the Santa Barbara coastal area groups and individuals.
- Patrick Tumamait, who responded by phone on October 19, 2015, stated that he thought an Extended Phase 1 study should be carried out given the proximity of the project to documented resources and indicated that all earth-disturbing activities be monitored by both an archaeologist and Native American.
- Frank Arredondo responded via electronic mail on November 5, 2015, requesting close review of the background literature because of the presence of two archaeological resources very near the project boundary.

Because no cultural resource deposits were identified within the APE, known deposits are located at least 80 feet from the edge of the APE, and the APE has been subject to past heavy disturbance, the ASR did not recommend any field monitoring of construction activities. If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, it is the policy of Caltrans and the City of Santa Barbara that work be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and any necessary measures implemented to avoid significant impacts to any important resources.

Attachments:

Memorandum – Consistency of ASR with City of SB MEA Guidelines
Historic Property Survey Report (with ASR attached)

cc: Jessica Grant, Project Planner, Community Development Department
Steve Greer, Environmental Analyst, Community Development Department