



City of Santa Barbara
Planning Division

Memorandum

DATE: January 24, 2018
TO: Historic Landmarks Commission
FROM: Planning Division
SUBJECT: 1700 Block E. Cabrillo Boulevard Landscaping

On September 6, 2017, the Historic Landmarks Commission provided Concept review for a project proposed by the City of Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments. This project would construct pedestrian and bicycle improvements on E. Cabrillo Boulevard involving a new roundabout at Los Patos and Channel Drive, as well as replacement of a wider Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) bridge.

The project requires design review and approval by the Historic Landmarks Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission approval for the removal of 7 Mexican fan palms and a Coastal Development Permit by the Planning Commission. Environmental Review will also be conducted.

At the September 6, 2017 Historic Landmarks Commission meeting, the Commission provided comments regarding various project design elements, cultural consistency, paving, bridge design and landscaping.

At this time, the applicants are presenting only enhanced landscape plans for the roundabout and surrounding vicinity in response to the Commission's landscape comments. The UPRR bridge design is not presented at this meeting as Union Pacific will be reviewing bridge design options. Following input from Union Pacific, the bridge and associated improvements will be presented to the Historic Landmarks Commission for design review. The renderings presented to the Commission at this meeting illustrate the bridge structure in the background only for context of the project area.

The Commission comments from September that relate to landscaping are as follows:

1. Design in its entirety needs to be more Santa Barbara: minimize the amount of paving; maximize the amount of landscaping; maintain the rustic rural quality of the Bird Refuge and Cabrillo Boulevard; design to be one of the significant entrances to the City.
2. Make the least disturbance to the cultural landscape of E. Cabrillo Boulevard.
3. The design has no poetry.

4. The design needs to be inspired by the Olmsted brothers work.
5. The roundabout landscaping should relate to the landscaping around the fountain
6. Plant more palm trees.

Planning and Transportation Staff have done a preliminary review of the current submittal and have provided the following basic comments to the applicant:

1. Use one consistent material of Santa Barbara sandstone to address the HLC comment giving the rustic Santa Barbara feel.
2. Stone at the base of planter should also be of Santa Barbara sandstone- consider an “ashlar cut” with a cap consistent with what was mostly used historically in the City.
3. Provide a parkway on the southeast corner Los Patos and E. Cabrillo (Bird Refuge).
4. Vines on the east retaining wall could affect useable beachway width – check plant species and path geometry.

At this time, Staff is requesting design review by the Historic Landmarks Commission for the proposed landscape plan at the roundabout and surrounding vicinity that is not related to the Union Pacific railroad bridge.