



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 28, 2018
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Engineering Division, Public Works Department
SUBJECT: Las Positas/Modoc Road Multiuse Path Project (MST2014-00055)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission provide comments on the proposed landscaping plans and make recommendations to the Architectural Board of Review.

DISCUSSION:

Background and Project Description

The Las Positas/Modoc Road Multiuse Path Project (Project) includes 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.

On January 25, 2017, the Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) approved the STAC's recommendation to approve the removal of up to 114 various trees along Las Positas and Modoc Roads. The Commission approved the removals on the condition that the replacement trees planted within the project range in size up to and including 60" box, that the trees planted within the project have a diversity of native species, that no tree be removed until construction is funded, and that as many trees as feasible be preserved. Every effort will be made to preserve existing trees, particularly oak trees, during both final design and construction.

Current Status

Since the Commission last reviewed the Project, the Architectural Board of Review (ABR) reviewed and commented on the preliminary plans. The design is now at the 60% level and Public Works staff request the Commission's comments and recommendations on the proposed landscaping plans before returning to the ABR in March or April.

The Project area is generally low density, rural in nature, and well vegetated with trees. The goal of the proposed landscaping plan is to be compatible with and enhance the existing

natural setting and tree canopy. Native trees, including Coast Live Oak and Island Oak, natural stone materials, and limited native drought tolerant plants are proposed to enhance the Project area in a way that will complement the existing natural setting.

Along Modoc Road, the proposed landscaping plans include a parkway separating the multiuse pathway from the roadway. The parkway is proposed to consist of small crushed rock, boulder outcroppings, and street trees, with native drought tolerant plantings limited to intersections and points of interest.

At the intersection of Modoc and Las Positas Roads, new oak trees surrounded by wood mulch are proposed, with native drought tolerant plantings clustered at pathway intersections and a proposed rest area.

Along Las Positas Road, much of the multiuse pathway is either separated from the roadway by a physical barrier or is away from the roadway such that a traditional parkway is not needed. Between Veronica Springs Road and Jerry Harwin Parkway (Elings Park entrance), traditional parkway is proposed to provide the minimum separation between the pathway and the roadway without using a physical barrier. In this area, the same small crushed rock and boulder outcroppings are proposed, with native drought tolerant plantings limited to intersections and points of interest. No street trees in the parkway along Las Positas Road are currently proposed due to restrictions set by the Fire Department to not plant new trees within ten feet of the roadway, as this is within a High Fire Hazard Area.

The Project proposes to plant a total of 111 new trees within the Project area, including 96 new street trees and 15 new trees on an adjacent City-owned parcel. An additional 251 trees will be planted at an offsite mitigation area, as agreed upon with Parks and Recreation staff. Below is a summary of the proposed trees within the project area:

- Modoc Road (up to 14 tree removals previously approved):
 - o 11 Jacaranda (street trees)
 - o 45 Island Live Oak (street trees)
- Las Positas/Modoc Intersection (up to 26 tree removals previously approved):
 - o 12 Island Live Oak (street trees)
 - o 13 Coast Live Oak (street trees)
- Las Positas Road (up to 74 tree removals previously approved):
 - o 15 Coast Live Oak (street trees)
 - o 15 Coast Live Oak (on City property)

The Project will fund the maintenance, including irrigation, of the proposed landscaping during the plant establishment period. The minimum post-construction monitoring period required for the new street trees is seven years. The establishment period for the other plantings has not yet been determined, but a six to twelve month establishment period is typical for these types of plantings. After each of the establishment periods have concluded,

maintenance of the plantings and street trees will be turned over to the Parks and Recreation Department. It is anticipated that after the establishment period, no further irrigation will be needed. During construction, additional crushed rock and boulder material will be provided to Parks and Recreation staff to stockpile for future maintenance needs.

Conclusion

Public Works staff request the Commission's comments on the proposed landscaping plans and recommendations to be presented at the next ABR review, which is anticipated in March or April.

ATTACHMENT: Las Positas/Modoc Road Multiuse Path Project Preliminary Planting Plans

SUBMITTED BY: Ashleigh Shue, Supervising Civil Engineer

APPROVED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director