

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET

DATE REPORT ISSUED: September 9, 2010 REPORT NO.: n/a (1472)
ATTENTION: Council President and City Council
ORIGINATING DEPT.: Engineering and Capital Projects, Transportation Engineering
Operations
SUBJECT: Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Grant Cycle 3
COUNCIL DISTRICTS: 3
STAFF CONTACT: Deborah Van Wanseele (619) 533-3012, MS 608 or Julio Fuentes
(619) 533-3092, MS 609

REQUESTED ACTION:

This action is to authorize accepting funds from Caltrans from their Highway Safety Improvement Program for improvements to Florida Drive and authorizing a grant match.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommendation is to approve the resolutions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Highway Safety Improvement Program is a federal sponsored program designed to fund projects that will improve the safety of publicly-owned roadways or bicycle/pedestrian pathways or trails.

This grant will fund the installation of median improvements on Florida Drive. The roadway is classified as a four-lane collector that carries an average volume of 22,500 vehicles per day. The road along this segment is 0.3 mile in length with an approximate downgrade slope of four percent. This segment of Florida Drive does not have any street lighting. Traffic accident data for the past ten years shows three fatalities, and a total of 26 collisions, the majority occurring at night.

The proposed improvement is to construct a concrete median barrier to help guide vehicles back to the roadway. It will reduce the occurrence of head-on collisions caused by vehicles crossing over the center median. The proposed street lights will provide better safety conditions for vehicles, bicyclists and other modes of transportation during the evening hours.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The total estimated project cost is \$951,617. This action authorizes the acceptance of the grant in the amount of \$577,350 through the Highway Safety Improvement Program. We are matching the grant with a total of \$64,150, which is available from the Grant-State Fund Proposition 1B, Fund 600001, Annual Allocation AIE00002, Guardrails. The remaining balance of \$310,117 is also available from the Grant-State Fund Proposition 1B, Fund 600001, Annual Allocation AIE00002, Guardrails.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL COMMITTEE ACTION:

None

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS:

This project was presented to the Golden Hill committee group on January 13, 2010. At the meeting the committee agreed that this item was for information only and comments and suggestions would be addressed by the Balboa Park Committee.

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The project was presented to the Balboa Park Committee on January 7, 2010, and on July 1, 2010. At the January meeting, Committee members requested modifications to staff's design proposal to provide for landscaping opportunities and sensitivity to wildlife that may be impacted by the new median. Staff revised the design to provide an opportunity for a thematic landscaped area on Florida Drive at Pershing Drive as a community "entrance." Any landscaping that could be provided in this area is subject to an agreement with the Park and Recreation Department or any other entity to provide for the maintenance at such area. Staff will continue to explore with the Committee any available options to provide the landscaping and a mechanism to maintain.

In addition, staff modified the median design to allow openings at various locations along the new median to provide opportunities for wild life crossings.

Other comments at the July 1, 2010, meeting included increasing the landscape area and consider a wooden rail similar to the one used by the State on State Route 163. Staff explained to the committee that such a wooden rail, while more aesthetically pleasing and with more landscaping opportunities, would require a more intensive long term maintenance effort that the City is not currently in a position to provide, and would not prevent the type of accidents that are occurring to the degree that the proposed design would provide.

This item is scheduled to be heard at the Land Use & Housing Committee on September 15, 2010.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

Balboa Park Committee Group. Motorists and bicyclists that use Florida Drive.


Patti Boekamp
Director of Engineering and Capital Projects


David Jarrell
Deputy Chief of Public Works