

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: July 6, 2021

Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Award of Contract No. C21-35 to BKF Engineers for Completion of the Design for the San Pablo Avenue Pedestrian Improvements Project Phase I (CIP No. 24001)

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SUMMARY

The action before the Council is to award Contract No. C21-58 to BKF Engineers in the not-to-exceed amount of \$45,160.00 to finalize the design of Phase I of the San Pablo Avenue Pedestrian Improvements Project (CIP No. 24001).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt Resolution No. 2021-71, authorizing the City Manager to execute Contract No. C21-58 with BKF Engineers in the not-to-exceed amount of \$45,160.00 to finalize the design of Phase I of the San Pablo Avenue Pedestrian Improvements Project (CIP No. 24001) from funds previously appropriated as part of the City's Capital Improvement Plan.

BACKGROUND

On July 18, 2016, the City entered into Contract No. C16-18 with BKF Engineers for the design of the San Pablo Avenue and Buchanan Street Project Pedestrian Improvements (CIP Project 24001). The overall scope of the project includes pedestrian improvements crossing San Pablo Ave between Brighton and Washington and across Buchanan Street at Taylor. The design for the project was advanced to approximately 90% up through 2019. Due to funding constraints, the project was divided into three phases for implementation as detailed in the City's Capital Improvement Plan, recently adopted in November 2020 (Resolution No. 2020-108). Three project phases are detailed as follows:

- (Phase I) Brighton Avenue to Portland Avenue: Pedestrian improvements between Brighton and Portland. The scope was expanded to include five additional curb ramps at side street crossings (original scope focused on San Pablo crossings) and a rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) at Castro.
- (Phase II) Washington Avenue Intersection: Pedestrian and bike improvement at Washington Ave, including a new signal.
- (Phase III) Buchanan Street: Pedestrian improvements at Taylor.

The City has been awarded \$340,000 in federal OBAG2 (One Bay Area Grant) grant funding for construction of the project, as administered by the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC).

As required by the conditions of the federal funding source and the location of work on San Pablo Avenue (State Route 123), the City has partnered with Caltrans to review and approve the project, including a required project field review in March of 2021. At this meeting, Caltrans supported staff's recommendation for adding five additional curb ramp improvements in order to bring all curb ramps within the project limits into compliance with ADA standards.

Staff most recently presented design elements to the Transportation Commission in May 2020. Phase I project design is consistent with past presentations to the Transportation Commission, except for the addition of five curb ramps and an RRFB at Castro Street that were not included in the original design. Finalized design plans for Phase I will be brought back to Transportation Commission and Council at a future date.

DISCUSSION

The contract presented for award (C21-58) will enable staff to finalize the design of Phase I of the San Pablo Pedestrian Improvements Project (CIP No. 24001), which aims to increase pedestrian safety on San Pablo Avenue between Brighton Avenue and Portland Avenue, and remove references to design elements associated with future phases.

The project will consist of improvements at five intersections with the following project elements: curb extensions, pedestrian refuge areas, high visibility crosswalks, RRFB at Castro Street, and new ADA compliant curb ramps throughout the project limits. Pavement improvements will also be performed at locations where curb ramp construction and crosswalk grades for ADA compliance warrant correction.

Caltrans' authorization is required to proceed with construction of the project, and the size and scope of the project subsequent to completion of the design may trigger additional study by Caltrans. Caltrans authorizations are anticipated to take four to eight months depending on level of study. BKF's tasks of revising the plans and updating the engineer's estimate will aid in determining the project timeline. Staff is concurrently working with Caltrans to expedite this process where possible.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE:

This project consists of the rehabilitation of an existing street asset and is determined to be categorically exempt under CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act).

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Implementation of pedestrian safety and accessibility improvements along San Pablo Avenue is designed to encourage walking and transit use along the corridor. The project involves the removal and replacement of existing asphalt concrete pavement, curbs, gutters, and installation of accessible curb ramps. Accessible curb ramps increase equitable access for users of differing mobility, and increased pedestrian usage reduces motorized travel, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Budget for Phase I of the San Pablo Pedestrian Improvements Project (CIP No. 24001) was appropriated by Council as part of the City's Capital Improvement Plan for FY2020-2024, as adopted in November 2020 (Resolution No. 2020-108).

The budget for Phase I of this project is as follows:

Projected Expenditures	Costs
Professional Services	\$350,000
Construction/Improvements	\$1,000,000
Total Expenditures	\$1,350,000
Funding Sources	Budget
Meas B Local Streets & Roads (1101)	\$200,000
Meas BB Local Streets & Roads (1201)	\$800,000
Meas BB Bike & Ped (1202)	\$10,000
OBAG2 Grant	\$340,000
Total Funding Sources	\$1,350,000

The proposed contract (C21-58) with BKF Engineers in the amount not-to-exceed \$45,160 is within the appropriated budget for the project and no budget adjustments are needed at this time.

Attachments:

1. Resolution No. 2021-71
2. Contract No. C21-58
3. BKF Scope Letter