



CITY OF SAN MATEO

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Administrative Report

Agenda Number: 1., Status: Study Session

TO: City Council

FROM: Larry A. Patterson, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Public Works Department

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, January 20, 2015

SUBJECT:
Hillsdale/US101 Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge Project - Structural Design and Aesthetics Evaluation Study

RECOMMENDATION

Review the Hillsdale/US101 Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge Structural Design and Aesthetics Evaluation Study and provide comments prior to finalization and receive a project overview update and provide feedback or comments regarding the conceptual design selection process.

BACKGROUND

The Hillsdale/US101 Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge project (Project) provides for a Class I pedestrian and bicycle grade separated crossing over Highway 101 (US101) south of the Hillsdale interchange and a Class II facility on Hillsdale from Norfolk to the San Mateo/Foster City limit. The proposed bridge and Class II facility provides safe and unimpeded bicycle access along Hillsdale Boulevard separate from the high vehicular volume at the US101 interchange. Construction of the bridge and Class II facility would create a fully connected bicycle network in this area connecting San Mateo areas and Foster City east of US101 with the Hillsdale Caltrain Station.

Project Status to Date

The City completed an alignment study in 2007 in response to the community's concern about the ability of pedestrians and bicyclists to use Hillsdale Boulevard to safely cross US101. In 2012, the City was awarded a grant by the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) to begin the required Caltrans project development process since the project will be constructed almost completely within Caltrans right-of-way. In April 2013, the City entered into a cooperative agreement with Caltrans for the first phase of the Caltrans project development process - the Project Initiation Document (PID) phase. Staff anticipates completing this phase in January 2015.

The Project, thus far, has included a series of public meetings to gauge public interest in bridge types and bridge alignment, landing locations, and bicycle network connections working through the Caltrans process. Primary components of the outreach process included community workshops, Public Works and Planning Commission meetings, and City Council meetings.

Structural Design and Aesthetics Evaluation Study

A structural design and aesthetic evaluation study (Study) has been developed to summarize the public outreach efforts completed during this phase of the project. A draft of this Study has been attached as Attachment 1. The Study discusses the project's background, existing site conditions, and the purpose and need.

The Study also presents conceptual site-specific structural samples and aesthetic applications that were discussed through the public process. These concepts demonstrate design options for the bridge structure and features that can be potentially incorporated into a signature bridge for the City.

Additionally, the Study includes variations of the main alignment which can include alternative connection points as access points to cross over US101. The additional connection points incorporate alternative access points from Hillsdale Court to the west and from La Selva Street to the east. The alignment options have since been further refined and reintroduced through the public process for further discussion and to gather public interest.

A summary of the public process describes each of the public meetings held and the format of the material presented. Bridge type design concepts are also summarized to compare estimated construction and maintenance costs.

Overall, the information presented in the Study memorializes the City's efforts in this current phase and this Study will be used as a basis for further discussion and development of signature bridge characteristics in future phases. As closeout of the PSR-PDS phase, the draft Structural Design and Aesthetics Evaluation Study will be finalized incorporating feedback from City Council.

Next Steps

Upon completion of the PSR-PDS phase of the Caltrans project development process, the project will proceed into the Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA&ED) phase. The City was awarded a grant by the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) for this phase in July 2014. A separate cooperative agreement with Caltrans is being drafted for PA&ED phase activities as part of the closeout of the current PSR-PDS phase and will be executed to start the PA&ED phase of the project. Staff will then be issuing a Request for Proposals to select a consultant to complete the PA&ED phase. Public outreach efforts paralleling the PA&ED phase of the project will include Caltrans approval of the final alignment with the selected preferred alternate connections and circulation of the environmental document.

As part of the PA&ED phase and prior to the Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E - Caltrans Design Phase), staff proposes to implement a design selection/competition process to formally select the final conceptual design of the bridge. The selection of a conceptual design will be in preparation for the PS&E phase of the project which follows the completion of the PA&ED phase, as shown in Attachment 2, "Project Process Overview."

A Request for Qualifications would be advertised for interested consulting teams to participate in this design competition and an initial selection of up to three (3) teams will be made. These three consulting teams will be provided a stipend to develop and submit their conceptual bridge designs. In order to facilitate public feedback and determine the final conceptual design, the conceptual designs will be presented by each team to the community, selected Commissions and City Council. A professional services contract for the PS&E phase of this project would then be negotiated with the consulting team that provided the winning conceptual design.

BUDGET IMPACT

Funding for this phase of the project is provided by the San Mateo County Transit Authority (TA) through a Measure A grant in the amount of \$480,000.00 and by the City's 20% matching funds in the amount of \$120,000.00. These funds have been allocated to Project #465157, "Hillsdale/US101 Bridge Overcrossing."

A grant for the next phase of the project, the PA&ED phase, submitted in response to the TA's FY14/15 Call for Projects, has been approved by the TA. City Council also adopted a resolution on February 3, 2014 authorizing the application submittal and the commitment of matching funds.

Future funding sources for design and construction have not been identified, but various opportunities have been outlined in the 2007 Alignment Study, including but not limited to, Recreational Trails Program, Safe Routes to School Program, Bicycle Transportation Account, Office of Traffic Safety Grants, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Program (RBPP), and San Mateo County Transportation Authority Measure A Funding. The City will aggressively pursue these funding opportunities.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

CEQA analysis is not required for this study session, because City Council is providing feedback to Staff. However, a Preliminary Environmental Analysis Report (PEAR) has been prepared as part of this phase and included in the PSR-PDS to determine the appropriate environmental clearance document.

Appropriate CEQA/NEPA clearance documentation will be prepared as part of the next phase of the project and will also address concerns including safety and visual impact.

NOTICE PROVIDED

All meeting noticing requirements were met.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Structural Design and Aesthetics Evaluation Study

Attachment 2 - Project Process Overview

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