

# Agenda Report

May 24, 2010

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Department of Public Works  
**SUBJECT:** CIVIC CENTER/MID-TOWN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT –  
PHASE I UPDATE

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

This report is submitted for information only.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Public Works Engineering staff is preparing construction documents for Phase I of the Civic Center/Mid-Town Public Improvements, which include the following improvements:

1. **Parking Redesign – Garfield Avenue:** Revise parking layout on Garfield Avenue and install parking islands, curbs and gutters, curb ramps, bump-outs for new narrowed cross walks, and a new storm drain system (as shown on Exhibit A).
2. **Cross Walks:** Install new crosswalks in Centennial Square, and repair brick cross walk at Colorado and Garfield.
3. **Sidewalks:** Install new brick sidewalks on Holly Street between Marengo and Garfield, and repair historic brick sidewalks on Garfield Avenue.
4. **Street Lighting:** Install new light poles and luminaries on Colorado; update historic street lights with new circuitry; and repair and replace damaged poles and lights as necessary.
5. **Landscaping Improvements:** Holly Street landscaping between sidewalks and building facades.

Design plans and specifications will be completed in June 2010 and submitted to Caltrans for their review and approval. The project is scheduled to be advertised in October and a contract awarded in November 2010. It is anticipated that construction will begin in February 2011 and be completed by June 2011.

**HISTORY:**

In late 1998, City Council approved a contract with The Arroyo Group, a Pasadena architectural and urban design firm which headed up the design effort for the Civic Center/Mid-Town Public Improvement Project.

The project included the redesign of Centennial Square with upgraded pedestrian crossings, parking courts, a traffic circle, decorative paving, including restoration of historic brick pavers on Garfield Avenue, and new trees, landscaping, street and building lighting, graphics, signage and public art. Concept design for the project was completed, reviewed by various City advisory bodies, and approved by City Council on April 9, 2001.

In February 2001, staff applied for a 2001 Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Transportation Improvement Program grant, and was granted \$2.8 million in funding for the Civic Center Public Improvements – Phase I, with a \$1 million match provided by the Pasadena Community Development Commission from proceeds of the sale of City property. Metro programmed the funding in the amount of \$400,000 for design in FY 2010, and the amount of \$2.4 million for construction will be programmed in FY 2011. Metro originally programmed this funding in FY 2004/FY 2005, but due to the City Hall Seismic Upgrade and Rehabilitation Project, the City asked for a time extension on the funding.

Design development for the project was completed in fall 2003, at which time the project was reviewed by City advisory bodies. A final recommendation for the Civic Center/Mid-Town Public Improvements project was approved by City Council on December 22, 2003, with the exception that trees on Holly Street and a proposed water fountain design for the project were deferred by City Council.

On August 13, 2007, City Council approved the Englemann (or Pasadena) Oak for Holly Street between Garfield and Marengo Avenues. In October 2008, Holly Street Carob trees were removed; and in February 2008, 36 new Englemann Oaks were planted on Holly Street, and new irrigation was installed for the trees. In 2009, new decorative pedestrian benches and trash receptacles consistent with the approved plan were installed on Holly Street and Garfield Avenue.

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

This project is consistent with the City Council's goal to Improve, Maintain and Enhance Public Facilities and Infrastructure. (City of Pasadena Six-Month Strategic Objectives, April 30, 2010 - November 1, 2010, Item No. 8 – Civic Center Improvement Plan.)

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

On July 16, 2009, the City's Environmental Administrator determined the project is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines in Sections 15302 and 15303, California Administrative Code, Title 14, Chapter 3. This exemption includes construction of minor beautification improvements to existing roadways. The capacity of the roadways will not be changed as a result of these improvements. A Notice of Exemption for the project was filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk on July 23, 2009.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Sufficient funding is available in the form of a Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Improvement Program Grant in the amount of \$2,832,000 and Pasadena Community Development Commission funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 in Capital Improvement Program Budget Account 73200 (Civic Center/Mid-Town Public Improvements and Related Components – Phase I).

Respectfully submitted,



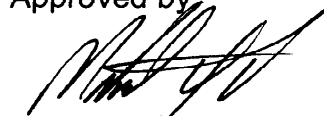
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