

# Agenda Report

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL **JANUARY 24, 2005**

**FROM:** CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** APPROVAL OF THE PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING FIXTURES AND FLOODLIGHT COMPONENT WHICH ARE PART OF THE DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL FOR THE ARROYO PARKWAY STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Pasadena City Council approve the light fixture identified as "acceptable alternative No. 2" for the design development proposal for the Arroyo Parkway Streetscape Enhancement Project as proposed by Field Operations. It is also recommended that the height of the fixtures be no lower than 8 feet and no taller than 25 feet as they are located on the parkway.

## **BACKGROUND:**

## Pedestrian Lighting Alternatives Study

Per the City Council's request, Field Operations submitted a pedestrian lighting alternative study. The study (See Attachment A) includes, the light fixture exhibited in the design development proposal (preferred alternative), two "acceptable alternatives" fixtures and, five "other alternatives" fixtures. The study also includes, photographs of the fixtures, scaled elevation drawings that show the fixtures at various heights, a list of pros and cons for each fixture, and a chart that rates the performance criteria of the various light fixtures.

Upon review of the study, it is staff's recommendation that the light fixtures labeled "acceptable alternative No. 2" is a more traditional alternative to the "light column" fixtures shown in the design development proposal. The No. 2 fixture successfully combines a simple yet modern pole with a classic globe and complements the contemporary aesthetic of the other approved streetscape elements.

Based upon the performance criteria outlined in the "lighting comparison" and discussions with Field Operations, light fixture No. 2 is comparable to the "light column" fixtures except in the areas of "product availability", "durability at bollard height" and costs. The No. 2 fixture scores a "good" vs. an "excellent" (score of the light column) in the area of bollard height durability, it scores a "fair" vs. "excellent" (score of the light column) in the area of availability, and it is approximately \$200-\$300 (ea.) more expensive than the light column.

To address the issue of availability it is recommended that the City purchase a surplus of poles to keep in storage and/or find a local company capable of fabricating a similarly designed fixture.

To address the issue of durability at bollard height it is recommended that the height of the fixture be no lower than 8 feet. This height will locate the globe portion of the fixture above the height of the average person and thus be less susceptible to vandalism. It is also recommended that the height of the light fixture be no higher than 25 feet. At this height the fixtures will be below the height of the existing streetlight standard. The range of pole height from 8 feet to 25 feet will retain the designer's goal of the forced perspective. In addition, this range will create a visual difference between the existing street standards (functional) and the pedestrian fixtures (aesthetic).

To balance the additional costs of the alternate light fixture, it is recommended that the City install fewer light fixtures (one fixture instead of two fixtures) between the existing cobra-head light standards along the parkway.

Regarding the floodlights that will up-light the palms, Field Operations proposes to attach them directly to the palms instead of to the pedestrian light fixtures. Attaching the light to the tree will eliminate the problematic lighting issues such as, consistent lighting of the palm trees or the need to fabricate of a custom mount (floodlight) for the pedestrian fixture. Attaching a light fixture directly to trees is a conventional method of up lighting, however the method of attachment must not compromise the health or safety of the tree. Finally, to mitigate the visibility of the conduit used to provide power to the floodlights, staff recommends that the conduit be located in an inconspicuous location on the trunk of the tree.

#### Community meeting

On January 11, 2005 a community informational meeting was held at Blair High School. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information, answer questions, and receive comments regarding the roadway and aesthetic improvements to the Arroyo Parkway Streetscape Enhancement Project. Approximately 55-60 people attended the meeting. Notification for the meeting was conducted as follows:

- Flyers mailed directly to property owners on Arroyo Parkway, Marengo and Raymond Avenue
- Door to door visits to business owners on Arroyo Parkway, Marengo and Raymond Avenue
- Flyers and electronic meeting notices distributed to neighborhood leaders through the office of Neighborhood Connections
- Flyers placed at public counters
- Commissioners notified electronically
- Ads placed in the Pasadena Star News
- Press release sent to the Pasadena Star News

Comments from the meeting participants relating to the lighting component of the project focused on the appropriateness of a traditional vs. contemporary light fixture. Staff's presentation included the "pedestrian lighting alternative study prepared by Field Operations.

Staff conducted an informal poll inquiring which design direction (traditional vs. contemporary) should be pursued. The response was about even with half of the participants supporting the proposed light column (light stick) and half supporting the idea of researching a more traditional fixture. Staff also polled the audience regarding a uniform height of the fixtures vs. the descending height proposal. Again, the response was about even. However, included in the response to the height of the fixture was the request of a compromise, which recommended that the fixtures have less of a height variation

#### **CITY REVIEWS:**

##### **City Council Approval**

On November 15, 2005, the City Council approved the design development proposal for the Arroyo Parkway Streetscape Enhancement Project with the exception of the pedestrian light fixtures (light sticks) and floodlight component which would return to Council in Mid-January 2005 with alternatives provided by Field Operations, and with the understanding that an opportunity for comment will be given to residents and businesses in this area.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Arroyo Parkway Street Enhancement project (Budget Account No. 73201) is included in the current Capital Improvement Program. A total of \$2 million is available for the aesthetic elements (street trees, pedestrian lights, median island landscaping and decorative crosswalks).

Respectfully submitted,



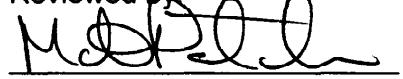
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Attachment A: Pedestrian lighting alternatives study prepared by Field Operations

*pedestrian lighting alternatives study*