



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: July 21, 2020

Subject

Authorize execution of design services agreement for Junipero Serra Trail

Recommended Action

Authorize the City Manager to execute a Master Agreement between the City of Cupertino and BKF Engineers (BKF) to provide design and engineering services for the Junipero Serra Trail project, for an amount not to exceed \$895,000.

Background

The Junipero Serra Trail (JST) was identified in both the 2016 Bicycle Transportation Plan and in the 2018 Pedestrian Transportation Plan as a “Tier 1” top priority project. It is one leg of the larger The Loop Cupertino Trail, (The Loop), which will provide a mostly off-street network of bike and pedestrian paths which circumnavigate the city and link key destinations.

The JST will be located primarily along the Junipero Serra Channel, parallel to and immediately south of Interstate 280. It will extend from Mary Avenue and the Don Burnett pedestrian-bicycle bridge eastward to Calabazas Creek, where it continues southward on the bank of Calabazas Creek to Vallco Parkway as its eastern terminus. Most of the trail will be located on existing maintenance roads operated by Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water).

In 2017, the City undertook a Feasibility Study process to evaluate the JST. The overall length was divided into three segments: an eastern segment from Vallco Parkway to Wolfe Road, a central segment from Wolfe Road to De Anza Boulevard, and a western segment from De Anza Boulevard to Mary Avenue and the Don Burnett bridge. The Study evaluated three alternatives for crossing De Anza Boulevard and evaluated replacing the existing drainage channel with a new concrete box culvert in the west segment to allow for greater trail width.

The Feasibility Study results, including feasible alternatives for crossings and structures, were presented to the Bicycle Pedestrian Commission on December 19, 2018. On

February 5, 2019, the Feasibility Study was reviewed and endorsed by the City Council. On May 19, 2019, the Council adopted the final Feasibility Study.

The Capital Improvement Program for 2019-2020 adopted by the City Council on June 18, 2019 included a project for basic design of JST. The total approved project budget is \$1.8M. The action also included approving a donation from Apple, Inc. to fund specific projects, including a \$1.8M donation toward the design of JST.

Discussion

In April 2020, a Request for Proposals was issued that solicited qualification submittals to provide design and engineering services for JST. The proposals were received in late May, ranked by a scoring committee, and the teams that submitted the three highest-ranked proposals were interviewed.

The most highly ranked team was BKF Engineers. BKF's team demonstrated applicable experience with a team that includes strongly qualified subconsultants for landscape architecture, and geotechnical, structural, and transportation engineering. It is recommended that Council authorize execution of a standard City master agreement with BKF to provide design and engineering services (see Attachment A), for a fee not to exceed \$895,000.

The proposed scope of services involves an initial task to conduct further site evaluation including topography, and to develop a detailed schematic design for the Central and East segments of the trail that will be shared for public input. The schematic design will be used to conduct an environmental clearance process for both segments concurrently. The East segment will then proceed forward to a complete 100% design resulting in construction plans and specifications suitable for bidding. There will be focused outreach to neighbors and stakeholders and public feedback will be invited during the design process. The western segment is not in the current scope and is proposed for implementation after the East and Central segments.

The proposed fee is anticipated to include all the tasks noted above, through conclusion of bidding and award of a construction contract. There is adequate funding in the existing project budget to cover the proposed services.

The East and Central segments of JST have been deemed eligible for Measure B funding for pedestrian and bicycle projects that is administered by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and are eligible for more than \$1.9M and \$4.1M respectively.

Future Steps

It is anticipated that once the design of the East segment is complete, design of the Central segment would be able to proceed. It is currently assumed that the crossing of De Anza Boulevard would be an at-grade one, with modifications to the existing signal

and intersection configuration. The East segment of JST could be ready to bid in early 2022 with construction completion early the following year. The Central segment could be ready to bid in mid-2024, with construction completion anticipated in spring or early summer the following year.

The West segment is suggested as a third and final phase, after the Central segment. The West segment has more extensive challenges, including constrained space for a trail, potential major hydrologic considerations, the likely need for hydraulic modeling, potential structural or costly design solutions, and significant coordination with outside agencies. Design and implementation of the West segment will be pursued once the Central segment has been addressed.

Summary

Approval of the recommended action will authorize the City Manager to execute a master agreement with BKF Engineers for design and engineering services and will authorize the design of Junipero Serra Trail to proceed as described above.

CEQA

Environmental review will be performed for the East and Central segments of JST after initial design work is completed and proposed plans with adequate detail for meaningful analysis of environmental impacts are available.

Sustainability Impact

Implementation of the Junipero Serra Trail project will support the City's sustainability and environmental policies and objectives.

Fiscal Impact

The recommended action is fully funded in the City's adopted Capital Improvement Program at \$1.8M. Approving this item will leave \$905,000 in currently budgeted funds for the Junipero Serra Trail.

Prepared by: Gail Seeds, Park Improvement Manager

Reviewed by: Roger Lee, Director of Public Works

Approved for Submission by: Dianne Thompson, Assistant City Manager

Attachments:

A – Draft Master Agreement for Design and Engineering Services with BKF Engineers