

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Cassidy and City Council
City Manager Chris Zapata

FROM: Debbie Pollart, Public Works Director

DATE: September 3, 2013

RE: Information in Response to Residents' Petition

At the July 15 City Council meeting, Mia Ousley presented to the Council a petition on behalf of 'north area' residents. Tim Holmes of the Broadmoor Neighborhood Association (BNA) was also present at the podium and indicated that the BNA board supported the petition.

The petition requested revitalization of a portion of Bancroft Avenue, from the border (Durant Avenue) to Oakes Boulevard, a length of approximately one-half mile. The speaker specifically asked for five 'shovel-ready' projects, and requested that they be completed as funding is made available. The requested projects are as follows:

- Installation of an entrance marker on Bancroft Avenue, similar to monuments installed on San Leandro Boulevard, Doolittle Boulevard, etc. to mark an entryway into San Leandro;
- Installation of decorative metal bus benches/trash cans/bike racks at Bancroft/Dutton and Bancroft/Victoria Circle, similar to those installed for the Downtown Plaza project;
- Installation of updated lighting and landscaping at Victoria Circle to deter crime and make bus waits safer;
- Construction of curb bulb-outs at Victoria Circle and/or Dowling Boulevard to make crossing Bancroft Avenue safer and to slow traffic; and
- Plant 'the triangle' at Bancroft Avenue/Dowling Boulevard.

With adoption of the FYs 2014 and 2015 Biennial Budget, the City Council included a budget of \$100,000, with funds intended to be utilized at locations throughout the City and at the discretion of the City Manager's office as 'Community Improvement Funds'. The intent with the Community Improvement Funds is to allocate monies for smaller projects that otherwise fall outside of budgeted departmental projects/programs, or allow a project to be completed more quickly if the result is aesthetically beneficial to the local populace.

Of the project requests noted above, preliminary work estimates indicate that the installation of updated lighting and painting of the poles at Victoria Circle could be accomplished with use of the Community Improvement Funds. Replacing the eight orb lights with LED fixtures, installing additional lighting at the bus stop arbors, and painting the poles would cost approximately \$6,000 in materials, with City staff providing the labor. Price estimates and funding options for the remaining project requests are as follows:

- *Installation of an entrance marker on Bancroft Avenue, similar to monuments installed on San Leandro Boulevard, Doolittle Boulevard, etc. to mark an entryway into San Leandro -*
 - Previous entrance markers cost approximately \$60,000 as constructed by the City. It should be noted that at the time the larger monument locations were being vetted, some north area residents

expressed to the City that they did not want a large marker. A smaller neighborhood marker (constructed approximately 13 years ago) is located at Bancroft/Broadmoor (see photo).

- Project would need to be included for consideration in the City's CIP process.
- Budget and timing for future CIP projects unknown at this time.



- *Installation of decorative metal bus benches/trash cans/bike racks at Bancroft/Dutton and Bancroft/Victoria Circle, similar to those installed for the Downtown Plaza project –*
 - The decorative metal bus benches Downtown and on MacArthur Blvd. that were paid for with Redevelopment funds cost approximately \$5,000 each. With the elimination of Redevelopment Agencies there is no longer funding for these decorative benches. It is possible that a portion of the \$100,000 Community Improvement Funds could be utilized to purchase attractive bus benches without advertisements. In addition to the cost to purchase the benches, the costs for installation vary greatly, depending upon the location and amount of preparation work needed. Installation costs are estimated at \$1,500 to \$3,000 per location.
 - The City has a bike rack program, administered through the Engineering & Transportation Department, which includes installation of a standard bike rack at locations where there is sufficient sidewalk to provide the necessary ADA clearance.
 - The City also has a program for decorative bike racks. Property or business owners can purchase a decorative 'art' bike rack and the City will pay for the cost of the encroachment permit and field inspection (installation costs are not included in this program).
 - Decorative trash cans must be coordinated with Alameda County Industries to ensure service can be provided.
- *Installation of updated lighting and landscaping at Victoria Circle to deter crime and make bus waits safer –*
 - There are currently eight decorative orb fixtures (four on either side of the circle). Updating those lights to LED technology, which will improve the lighting, would cost \$3,457 in materials (staff could perform installation). Propose to use Community Improvement Funds for purchase of materials.
 - Installation of six lights within the bus stop arbors (three lights on each side - similar to the lighting installed on the arbors at the City Hall north lot), would cost \$2,074 for materials (staff could perform installation). Propose to use Community Improvement Funds for purchase of materials.
 - Trenching to provide outlet plugs for decorative lighting at the base of the arbors would cost approximately \$10,000. This work may be able to be performed this fiscal year through potential budget savings.
 - Re-painting these eight light poles, which have faded, would cost approximately \$400. Propose to use Community Improvement Funds for purchase of paint.

- Removal of the lawn areas (both sides of the circle) and replanting in accordance with Bay Friendly Landscaping standards for irrigation/vegetation selection is estimated to cost approximately \$42,000 for contract materials and labor. (Future water savings from conversion of lawn to Bay Friendly are unknown at this time.) Budget for this landscaping work is not included in the current two-year budget cycle. Budget for this work could be considered for inclusion in the next budget cycle, which is fiscal year 2016.
- *Construction of curb bulb-outs at Victoria Circle and/or Dowling Boulevard to make crossing Bancroft Avenue safer and to slow traffic –*
 - This work is estimated to cost approximately \$100,000, depending upon landscaping and other features. Costs could be higher dependent upon potential drainage issues.
 - Project would need to be included for consideration in the City's CIP process.
 - Budget and timing for future CIP projects unknown at this time.
- *Plant 'the triangle' at Bancroft Avenue/Dowling Boulevard –*
 - Engineering & Transportation Department staff has indicated that the 'triangle' feature is planned for removal, with new crosswalk striping installed within the next couple of years (it will be included in the CIP process). The current triangle configuration creates a potential hazard for pedestrians, as a crosswalk extends from the northwest corner of Dowling/Bancroft south. Cars travelling south on Bancroft and turning west (right) onto Dowling tend to speed up and treat this feature as a 'free right turn', not realizing that a crosswalk exists right at the point the cars start to turn.

The total cost for all projects noted above (and assuming six decorative benches, six decorative garbage cans, and four decorative bike racks) is estimated to start at \$346,000. As noted, staff is recommending that \$6,000 be allocated from the Community Improvement Funds to replace existing and install new lighting at Victoria Circle and to paint the poles. Funding for the remaining projects would need to be included in future CIP processes, or future fiscal year budget allocations (2016 would be earliest option).

The speaker noted in presenting the petition that nothing had been done in 20 years towards beautification of this area. I would like to point out to the Council that there have been both 'improvement' projects in addition to regularly scheduled maintenance that has occurred in this area in the past 20 years. These include:

- Installation of decorative sidewalk planters at Bancroft/Dutton in mid-2000s (paid for by the General Fund);
- Painting of poles and installation of decorative pole banners along Bancroft Avenue, from Oakes Boulevard to Durant Avenue in 2002-2003 (paid for by the General Fund);
- Area-wide street maintenance (including painting of curbs, replacement of older street and STOP signs, filling of potholes, etc.) that is completed on a rotating 4-year cycle (2012, 2009, 2006, etc.)
- CIP street re-habilitation work (administered by the Engineering & Transportation Department) currently in progress includes budget expenditures of approximately \$66,000 in the immediate area in question, and a total of approximately \$600,000 (design plus construction) in neighborhoods north of Dutton Avenue and east of E. 14th Street.
- The MacArthur Boulevard Streetscape project, which included installation of new landscaped medians and signage, was completed in 2006 (\$3.4 million, paid with Redevelopment Funds).
- Between 2001 and 2004 a two-phased CIP construction project totaling \$645,000 was completed, which replaced the high voltage electrical system in the area to improve street lighting reliability.
- A future project, the MacArthur Phase 2 Roundabout (design) at Superior Avenue is in the FY 14 budget.

Submittal of the petition has presented some great ideas for consideration by the City. The request to improve the lighting at Victoria Circle, we believe can be accommodated this fiscal year utilizing Community Improvement Funds. The remaining projects would necessitate future budget considerations, whether through the City's CIP process, the fiscal year 2016 budget process, or in utilizing additional Community Improvement Funds.