



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 22, 2024

ITEM TITLE: Adopt a Resolution Approving Plans and Specifications for the Arroyo Avenue and Chestnut Street Safe Routes to School Improvements Project C2201 and Authorizing a Call for Bids.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a Resolution approving the plans and specifications for the Arroyo Avenue and Chestnut Street Safe Routes to School Improvements Project C2201 ("Project") and authorizing a call for bids.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no fiscal impacts and no additional funding is needed at this time.

Funding for the Project comes from C2201, which currently has an available budget of \$486,326.50 for Fiscal Year ("FY") 2023-24. In addition, the City expects a \$150,000 reimbursement from the State of California Department of Transportation's Priority Legislative Budget Grant in FY 2024-25. If the City Council approves the Project, the grant funds will be applied towards the Project's construction.

The engineer's estimate is \$476,500, which is currently within the available Project budget. However, the estimate does not include an additional \$21,700 for the City to provide work within the property lines of the San Carlos School District ("District") and 1722 Arroyo Avenue, which need to conform to the improvements in the public right-of-way. The District has agreed to reimburse the City for the additional work across their frontage and across 1722 Arroyo Avenue. A right-of-entry agreement will be signed by the District and the related work will be bid as a bid alternative to help clearly define the reimbursement costs.

The estimate also does not include a 20% construction contingency since the Project has not gone out to bid and the construction cost is not known at this time. Staff will request additional funding, if needed, at the time the Project is awarded.

BACKGROUND:

On February 27, 2023, the City Council adopted a Resolution approving the Safe Routes to School ("SRTS") improvement recommendations. The recommendations show the preferred streets for walking and biking, which help students, parents, and school staff decide the best routes for safe travel to school.

The improvements at the intersection of Arroyo Avenue and Chestnut Street are identified in the SRTS plan because of their proximity to Central Middle and Arroyo Elementary Schools. The

Project will improve safety and accessibility for community members of all ages and abilities traveling to and from Central Middle School, Arroyo Elementary School, Burton Park, and the San Carlos Youth Center.

ANALYSIS:

The Arroyo Avenue and Chestnut Street SRTS Improvements are consistent with the following City goals:

- *General Plan Goal CSH-2* to provide a safe, efficient, and aesthetically pleasing circulation network for various transportation modes in addition to the automobile.
- *Strategic Plan – Mobility, Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure Goal* to identify and implement citywide street and intersection projects to improve traffic flow (Objective 2) and implement SRTS improvements to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety (Objective 4).
- *Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan* to prioritize pedestrian enhancements throughout San Carlos, which also identifies Arroyo Avenue as a priority pedestrian route.

In the fall of 2023, staff and on-call consultant, Bellecci & Associates, Inc., began the Project design. The scope of work includes upgrades to existing crosswalks, construction of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb ramps, installation of a rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) system, striping, pavement markings, signage, replacement of the exposed aggregate concrete sidewalk along Arroyo Avenue, tree removal and replacement, and pavement and valley gutter rehabilitation at the intersection. Due to the Project vicinity, this Project involved collaboration with the District to conform to roadway and drainage conditions. The design evaluated other locations and found that the optimal location was in front of Arroyo Upper Elementary School and 1655 Arroyo Avenue because it would limit parking loss to only three spaces, while maintaining visibility of pedestrians and existing usage.

Staff also collected traffic data. Even though speeds near schools are limited to 15 mile per hour (mph) while school children are present, the 85th percentile of speeds was found to be 28 mph, which is within reason for residential speeds and consistent with the City's Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan. The average daily traffic counted 3,137 vehicles, which is above the 1,200 vehicles per day threshold for local streets and supports the need for safe crosswalks. Moreover, when the City's traffic consultant performed an analysis for all-way stop controls at the intersection, stop sign warrants were not met. Further, staff performed field observations during school peak hours and noted a considerable number of students running from school grounds across Arroyo Avenue towards Burton Park and the Youth Center.

Most of the improvements will be within the public right of way. Staff sent letters to properties adjacent to the Project site for feedback. One resident responded with support while another expressed opposition to the crosswalk across Arroyo Avenue fronting his property, citing that children tend to congregate near his property and damage his landscaping. Postcards were also mailed to residents and businesses within 300 feet of the Project site to provide another opportunity for input at or prior to the March 18, 2024 Planning and Transportation Commission meeting at which the Commission recommended that the City Council approve the Project. Letters were also mailed to residents and businesses within 300 feet of the Project site to provide another opportunity for input at or prior to the April 22, 2024 City Council meeting.

With the Council's approval, the Project will be advertised for bid in the spring and constructed in the summer of 2024, prior to school opening. Project closeout is anticipated in the fall of 2024.

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, this Project is categorically exempt since it consists of a minor alteration of existing public streets and sidewalks, involving negligible or no expansion of existing use.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternatives available to the City Council include:

1. Adopt a Resolution approving Plans and Specifications for the Arroyo Avenue and Chestnut Street Safe Routes to School Improvements Project C2201 and authorizing a call for bids; or
2. Do not adopt the Resolution; or
3. Provide staff with alternative direction.

Respectfully submitted by:

Steven Machida, Public Works Director

Approved for submission by:



Jeff Maltbie, City Manager

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Resolution
2. Warrant Analysis - 2023 All Way Stop Control for Arroyo Avenue/Chestnut Street
3. Project Plans - Arroyo Avenue & Chestnut Street SRTS Improvements
4. Project Specifications - Arroyo Avenue & Chestnut Street SRTS Improvements
5. Letters of Support