



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: North Brand Boulevard Complete Streets Demonstration Project

- 1) Resolution adopting the Plans and Specification for the North Brand Boulevard Complete Streets Demonstration Project, Specification No. 3942, Plan No. 1-3114; and directing the City Clerk to advertise for bids.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Action

Approved for June 13, 2023 **calendar**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The plans and specification have been completed for the North Brand Boulevard Complete Streets Demonstration Project. This project will pilot temporary infrastructure improvements to improve active transportation and safety throughout the project corridor.

The intent of this item is for the City Council to adopt the project plans and specification and authorize the City Clerk to advertise for bids.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Infrastructure: This project will pilot temporary infrastructure improvements to accommodate additional active transportation modes.

Mobility/Connectivity/Safety: This project will improve pedestrian safety with the implementation of various safety elements. Furthermore, the installation of protected bike lanes will significantly improve bicycle safety along the corridor and connectivity throughout the neighborhood.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council approve the Resolution to adopt the project Plans and Specification for the North Brand Boulevard Complete Streets Demonstration Project, Specification No. 3942, Plan No. 1-3114.

BACKGROUND

A complete street is an active transportation promoting policy and design approach that requires streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient, and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation. According to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, active transportation infrastructure encourages people to be physically active improving health and quality of life.

On September 6, 2018, the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) approved the guidelines and scoring criteria for the 2018 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP). The SCP is a multi-year program designed to support and implement the policies and initiatives of the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), with the primary item of the strategic plan being to produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians, primarily through active transportation and complete streets.

SCAG released the SCP Call for Proposals and received a total of 61 project proposals valued at approximately \$12 million dollars across all project categories and types by the December 14, 2018 deadline. An additional 19 projects requesting approximately \$15.5 million were submitted through the State Active Transportation Program (ATP), and these were considered as part of the SCP as well. After ranking the proposals, SCAG identified 41 top ranked projects out of a total of 80 for funding recommendations, with \$500,000 being the maximum amount awarded for any one project.

The City of Glendale was awarded \$500,000 to fund a quick-build project for the Brand Boulevard Complete Street Demonstration Project, located on Brand Boulevard between Glenoaks Boulevard and Mountain Street, to improve active transportation along the corridor. The design of the project is administered and managed by SCAG through their consultant, KOA Corporation, with design input and direction from the City of Glendale. Once a quick-build design alternative has been selected, the construction of the project will be bid out and managed by the City of Glendale.

The project limits are Brand Boulevard between Glenoaks Boulevard and Mountain Street. The corridor is approximately a half-mile-long and the street contains two travel lanes in each direction with a center two-way left-turn lane and an on-street diagonal parking lane in each direction. There are signalized intersections at Glenoaks Boulevard, Dryden Street, and Stocker Street, as well as a marked crossing currently controlled by a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon system at Fairview Avenue. Land uses along the corridor consist of a mix of retail, industrial/office, place of worship, a school south of Stocker Street, and heavy multi-family residential north of Stocker Street. Most retail use include dedicated off-street parking and the diagonal on-street parking is used during daytime hours south of Stocker Street and has high turnover, while the diagonal on-street parking north of Stocker Street is used all day for multi-family residential users. The speed limit on Brand Boulevard is posted at 30 mph, and a recently completed Engineering and Traffic Survey confirmed the average 85th percentile speed for both directions at 36 mph.

ANALYSIS

The multi-modal benefits to the community because of this project will include the following:

- More livable communities;
- Improved safety for all users;
- More walking and bicycling to improve public health;
- Increased transportation choices; and
- Greenhouse gas reduction and improved air quality.

The final pilot project design, otherwise known as Alternative 1A, after a series of community outreach events, advisory committee discussions, commission and council direction, will include the removal of one travel lane in each direction, the installation of a protected curb-running bicycle lane on both sides of the roadway, increase of on-street parking spaces along the corridor through shifting and realigning of the diagonal parking stalls, and the installation of painted bump outs and creative crosswalks at signalized intersections.

To successfully implement the project design and to ensure competitive bids, the City will advertise the project on multiple plan holders' web sites who publish project bidding documents and distribute the information to their extensive network of contractor, and construction industry contacts.

The project will also be advertised in a local newspaper, the Glendale Independent, prior to bid opening, as well as on BidNet, which is a web enabled data service to the public sector, for the dissemination of the building and construction project proposals to their large number of member contractors and consultants.

Finally, the project bidding documents will also be posted on the City's website.

The construction of this project is anticipated to begin in September 2023 and is scheduled for completion by January 2024.

STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH

In January of 2022, the project formed a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to help further guide the project through the design and outreach phases. The TAC is comprised of a team of City professional staff from multiple departments who collect existing project data, evaluate the data, and suggest improvements for each quick-build alternative. The CAC is comprised of a team of community representatives from nearby corridor businesses and residents, the Incarnation Parish School, the Downtown Glendale Association, the Walk/Bike Glendale community group, the Community Development Department, and the Rossmoyne Neighborhood Association.

In addition to the advisory committee guidance and support, various outreach efforts, including community touchpoint events and engagement surveys were conducted to receive feedback directly from the community. The following is a summary of the outreach efforts to date:

- Bike Audit:
 - Sunday, May 1, 2022
 - Biked the project corridor with the community on a weekend to determine feasibility and viability of a new active transportation mode in the project vicinity
- Walk Audit:
 - Thursday, May 19, 2022
 - Walked the project corridor on a busy weekday afternoon to share project details, identify areas of improvement, and solicit community feedback from active participants who routinely walk the project corridor
- Community Touchpoint No. 1:
 - Wednesday, May 25, 2022 through Tuesday, May 31, 2022
 - Community response tags were left at the light poles at the northwest and northeast corner of Brand Avenue and Glenoaks Boulevard, and the northeast and southwest corner of Brand Avenue and Dryden Street to encourage residents to share their ideas on how to make the street safer to walk, bike, and drive
- Transportation and Parking Commission
 - Monday, June 27, 2022
 - Shared project details and alternatives with commission members and commission voted unanimously to support Alternative 1A
- In-Person Canvassing Touchpoint No. 2
 - Wednesday, July 27, 2022
 - Using a door-to-door strategy, project staff spoke directly to businesses and residents along the project corridor to inform them of the Quick Build project. Project factsheets were distributed to residents and businesses in English, Spanish, and Armenian. A Spanish speaker communicated with residents who did not speak English.

- Dedicated Project Website
 - Outreach on this project continues to occur through the dedicated website for the project that is hosted through the City of Glendale domain, as well as the consultant's domain. The website page introduces the public to the project and to the project team, explains the scope of work and project locations, and provides the public with staff contact information for questions, discussion and/or input.
- City Council Meeting
 - Tuesday August 23, 2022
 - Shared project details and alternatives with Council members and Council voted unanimously to support Alternative 1A

At the August 23, 2022 Council meeting, City Council provided additional feedback and direction to Public Works staff, including coordination with the Glendale Fire Department (GFD), project website related concerns, the volume of the participants in the engagement surveys, and continuation of effective public outreach during the implementation phase.

To address the concerns of the Council, follow-up meetings with GFD staff were conducted to ensure resolution of their comments. The final design plans have addressed these issues.

Additionally, staff directed the consultant design team to make updates to the project website to make it more user-friendly. The website improvements ensure viewers could access the necessary information without being redirected to an external website to review alternatives. Moreover, staff further reviewed the public feedback received from the engagement surveys and noted an increase in feedback regarding the project after conducting in-person canvassing at the project site. This demonstrated the positive impact of the interactions in generating interest and gathering feedback from the community as well as the importance of continued outreach efforts for the project's success.

Furthermore, to continue engaging the public effectively, outreach efforts will include additional community touchpoints and physical project signage to receive public feedback before, during, and after the implementation of the demonstration project as follows:

- Community Touchpoint No. 3
 - Will occur before official construction groundbreaking
 - Intended to remind the community, businesses, and residents along the project corridor about the upcoming construction and reintroduce the project design elements and detail the construction process
- Community Touchpoint No. 4
 - Official ribbon-cutting event at the completion of construction

- Project Signage
 - Four physical project signs will be installed at the northerly and southerly end of the project on Brand Boulevard
 - The project signs will be maintained during the construction of the project
 - Project signs will include brief information about the quick build project and will include a QR code to direct public to the project website for more information and to provide feedback

These additional community touchpoints and project signs will help facilitate effective communication, gather feedback, raise awareness about the quick build project, develop relationships, and drive continuous public feedback on the project during and after the implementation.

Public feedback is one of several factors that will determine if the quick-build project is eventually made permanent. Quick-build projects extend the public comment period beyond implementation. While the design is implemented using “temporary” materials, such as colored paint, soft-hit bollards, or planter boxes, they may end up becoming permanent by replacing them with hardscapes, permanent irrigated landscaping, and more durable thermoplastic pavement striping.

By effectively engaging with the community, the project team can create a positive impact and ensure the long-term success and acceptance of the quick build project and ultimately transitioning into a permanent improvement.

The quick-build construction of this project is anticipated to begin in September 2023. Since the measures are temporary, they are designed to be removed or modified in response to on-the-ground feedback.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report. The Engineers estimate for the construction of this project is \$750,000. Funding for this project has been budgeted from the Measure S CIP Fund (4011) and State Gas Tax Fund (4020).

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Project is categorically exempt from environmental review because of CEQA Guidelines §§ 15301.

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

Not Applicable

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Approve the Resolution adopting the project Plans and Specification for the North Brand Boulevard Complete Streets Demonstration Project and directing the City Clerk to advertise for bids.

Alternative 2: Do not adopt the Resolution adopting the Plans and Specifications for the North Brand Boulevard Complete Streets Demonstration Project. Doing so, however, will halt the construction of new active transportation modes

throughout the corridor.

Alternative 3: The City Council may consider any other alternative not proposed by staff.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Prepared by:

Armen Avazian, P.E., Principal Civil Engineer
Saumil Mody, Project Manager

Approved by:

Roubik R. Golanian, P.E., City Manager

EXHIBITS/ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit 1: Project Location Map

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA
ADOPTING THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATION FOR THE NORTH BRAND
BOULEVARD COMPLETE STREETS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT,
SPECIFICATION NO. 3942, PLAN NO. 1-3114; AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK
TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS.**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GLENDALE:

SECTION 1. The Plans and Specification on file in the City Clerk's office for the North Brand Boulevard Complete Streets Demonstration Project, including the various documents incorporated therein, are hereby approved, adopted, designated, and shall hereafter be known as Specification No. 3942 and Plan No. 1-3114.

SECTION 2. The City Clerk is hereby directed to advertise for bids for the work, equipment and materials described in these Plans and Specifications adopted by this Resolution.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Mayor, City of Glendale

ATTEST:

City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

CITY OF GLENDALE)

I, Suzie Abajian, Ph.D., City Clerk of the City of Glendale, certify that the foregoing Resolution No. _____ was adopted by the Council of the City of Glendale, California, at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2023, the same was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

City Clerk