



Information Item

Date: June 9, 2009

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Lee E. Swain, Director, Department of Public Works
Subject: Peer Review - 20th Street & Cloverfield Boulevard Improvement Project

Introduction

During the presentation to Council on the concept design of the 20th Street & Cloverfield Boulevard Improvement Project (Project), Council requested that staff from Planning and Community Development work with Public Works staff to assess the Project from both an urban design perspective and a long term traffic/transportation strategy. This report details the work effort planned to evaluate the Project, discusses work completed to date and provides a schedule for completion.

Background

On [January 27, 2009](#), City Council reviewed the recommended concept designs for the 20th Street & Cloverfield Boulevard Improvement Project and continued the discussion, requesting that Public Works staff work with Planning and Community Development staff to evaluate and assess the design options as they relate to the City's long term traffic and transportation strategy as set forth in the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) Strategy Framework. Additionally, Council requested that staff explore options for the urban design features of the Project.

Discussion

In response to the Council's request, staff from Public Works and Planning and Community Development have initiated a peer review process for the Project. In order to satisfy Council's concerns, staff feels it necessary to provide additional transportation

and traffic engineering analysis, as well as focused urban design review. The following work efforts will be included in the peer review:

Transportation Systems Analysis - Staff has identified the need to evaluate any proposed roadway changes to 20th Street within the context of the City's larger street network. It is particularly important to assess the proposed modifications as they relate to the City's long-term traffic and transportation goals as set forward in the LUCE Strategy Framework, including facilitating connections to the City's bicycle network. To this end, the City has retained Nelson/Nygaard Consultants to provide "systems analysis" for the project concepts. This will include evaluating multiple street configuration scenarios, "road diets," new signalization, and bike lanes. This effort will also include identifying and reviewing areas of transition to locate key points of conflict, and expanding the project area to connect the Project to the larger transportation network.

Traffic Impact Analysis - The Traffic Impact Analysis of the proposed concepts will look at key roadway segments and intersections, including the on- and off-ramps, in order to assess operational conditions. From a systems approach, an evaluation of the potential diversion of through-traffic to alternate north-south routes and associated traffic impacts will be a critical component of the analysis. The Traffic Impact Analysis will include:

- Data Collection
- Existing Conditions
- Forecast Future Traffic Conditions
- Traffic Operations Analysis
- Traffic Impact Assessment
- Mitigation Analysis
- Congestion Management Program Impact Analysis
- Documentation
- Public Meetings

Staff has finalized the scope of the Traffic Impact Analysis to include new concepts, intersections and roadway segments not previously studied, as part of a "systems"

approach to the project. Fehr & Peers has been retained for the Traffic Impact Analysis and the data collection necessary for the analysis will be completed in June.

Urban Design Peer Review – A critical factor in determining the best path forward is to incorporate the perspective of an independent urban design professional. This approach is intended to organize the findings of the transportation systems and traffic impact analysis into a cohesive design that works within the physical, natural, and circulatory constraints of the project area. Staff has retained Urban Studio (urban design consultants) to provide independent design review. Urban Studio's scope of work will include reviewing the existing conditions and design concepts to determine potential improvements to bikeability, walkability, and aesthetics given the findings of the proposed traffic analysis.

Public Meeting - Building consensus on a preferred alternative is an integral part of the planning process. Engineering staff and community members have worked together in developing the design concepts presented so far; however, should the proposed concepts change dramatically based on the results of the transportation systems, traffic analysis, and urban design review, it may be necessary to engage the community again in order to get feed back and support.

Staff anticipates an additional 4-5 months to complete the transportation/traffic analysis and urban design review. The findings of the peer review will be presented to City Council in Fall 2009. This timeline is based on current staffing and consultant availability. Should the concept designs change dramatically, some additional time may be needed for design refinements and additional public outreach.

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