



City of La Quinta

CITY / SA / HA / FA MEETING DATE: May 5, 2015

ITEM TITLE: APPROVE PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE, AND SOLICIT BIDS FOR JEFFERSON STREET AT AVENUE 52 ROUNDABOUT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

AGENDA CATEGORY:

BUSINESS SESSION:

CONSENT CALENDAR: 13

STUDY SESSION:

PUBLIC HEARING:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the plans, specifications, and engineer's estimate, and authorize staff to solicit bids for signing and striping improvements at the Jefferson Street at Avenue 52 roundabout.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The roundabout at the intersection of Jefferson Street and Avenue 52 poses several operational challenges and consistently experiences some of the highest accident rates of any intersection in the City.
- The City has attempted to improve the outdated design of the roundabout through improved signage and other minor changes. However, this has not resulted in a significant reduction in accidents or complaints from motorists.
- The City's roundabout consultants, as well as the City's Traffic Engineer, recommend restriping the four intersection approaches as well as the internal circulation lanes to a single lane. The intent is to reduce entry speeds and better define right-of-way for motorists entering and exiting the roundabout.
- The proposed bid documents for the Roundabout Signing and Striping Improvements Project will bring the design into compliance with current standards for modern roundabouts and are therefore recommended for approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The original project (addressing only the two east/west approaches of the roundabout) is included in the 2014/2015 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and is

funded with Measure A funds in the amount of \$110,900. The engineer's estimate for construction of the new project (all four approaches being modified) is \$269,800.

The total project including "soft costs" is \$375,900. Therefore, a shortfall of \$265,000 is anticipated. The additional funding is available from unassigned Measure A funds. No additional appropriation is requested at this time. Staff will prepare a funding recommendation (from Measure A) at project award following receipt of construction bids.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

Originally designed and constructed in 2000, the Jefferson Street and Avenue 52 roundabout is the oldest of five City roundabouts. The current design presents several operational challenges, including vehicles approaching at far higher speeds than the design speed (of 20 miles per hour or less), which results in accidents when drivers lose control and strike the center median. Additionally, drivers are frustrated by the dual lane entries and exits that confuse them as to who has the right-of-way. This condition generated many side-swipe accidents.

Staff worked with two traffic engineering consultants who specialize in modern roundabout design. Several options were considered and it was determined that this intersection would function best as a single lane roundabout; to accomplish this, tapers to reduce approach speeds would be incorporated at all four approaches (Attachment 1). The deflection created by these tapers combined with the single lane approach would motivate drivers to enter the roundabout at an appropriate speed. Once inside, the single lane configuration would allow drivers to exit without the possibility of other drivers cutting them off, as can happen with the current dual lane configuration. The result is a much more predictable driver experience with little reduction in capacity.

Prior to restriping, staff recommends that the approaches and the roundabout be slurry sealed. The slurry seal would further eliminate any trace of the current striping. The roundabout and approaches were last slurry sealed more than ten years ago; it is also timely to do this preventative maintenance work.

The project plans, specifications and engineer's estimate are now complete and available for review in the City's Public Works Department. Contingent upon City Council's approval to bid this project, the following is the proposed schedule:

City Council Bid Authorization	May 5, 2015
Bid Period	May 6 through June 4, 2015
Award of Contract	June 16, 2015
Sign Contracts and Mobilize	June 16 through July 7, 2015
Construction (15 Working Days)	July 7 through July 29, 2015
Accept Improvements	August 2015

ALTERNATIVES:

In order to complete construction during the summer to avoid seasonal traffic, no alternative is recommended.

Report prepared by: Ed Wimmer, P.E., Principal Engineer

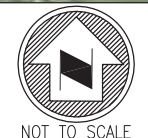
Report approved for submission by: Timothy R. Jonasson, P.E.
Public Works Director/City Engineer

Attachment: 1. Jefferson Street Roundabout Proposed Restriping



AVENUE 52 AND JEFFERSON ROUNDABOUT STRIPING IMPROVEMENTS

CITY PROJECT #2014-02



NOT TO SCALE

STRIPING EXHIBIT

