



City Council Report

Date: July 1, 2014
To: City Council
Through: Kari Kent, Deputy City Manager
From: Beth Huning, City Engineer
Rob Kidder, Assistant City Engineer
Subject: Central Mesa Light Rail Extension
City Funded Utility Improvements
City Project C09046
District 3 and 4

Strategic Initiatives



Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Council on the inclusion of City funded improvements as part of the Central Mesa Light Rail Extension (CME) project. (See Exhibit “A” for project location).

Staff recommends that Council approve the expenditure of funds for various City of Mesa improvements located throughout the CME project. The total amount of the proposed improvements is \$83,559.00.

Background

On June 27, 2011, the City Council approved entering into a Design and Construction Agreement for the development of the Central Mesa Light Rail Extension (CME) project. This project will extend the existing light rail system from the current end of line station at Sycamore and Main Street in Mesa, to a new end of line station east of Mesa Drive on Main Street, approximately three miles.

The approved Design and Construction Agreement includes a process for the City to add City funded improvements to the project. These improvements typically include upgrades to City utilities and other facilities that are located adjacent to or within the new light rail facilities, but are not being impacted directly by the project. These improvements are referred to as Concurrent Non-Project Activities (CNPA), which must be funded by the City.

These improvements included in this CNPA request includes upgrades to downtown sidewalk ramps and repainting existing bus shelters that were removed and will be reinstalled within the project limits.

The benefits of including these sidewalk ramp and bus shelter improvements now is that the work is performed at the same time as other similar project work and greatly reduces or eliminates future disruptions to the roadway and traffic adjacent to the new light rail system.

Discussion

Early in the design of the CME project, Valley Metro (METRO) identified the existing City improvements that would be modified or replaced as part of the construction of the light rail project. Since then, City staff from the Engineering, Transit, and the Transportation Departments reviewed the existing sidewalk ramps and bus shelters within the project limits and identified additional needs for upgrades to these facilities.

The requests to improve the sidewalk ramps and bus shelters were submitted to METRO for their review and concurrence. As part of this process, METRO requested pricing for the work on the sidewalk ramps and bus shelters from the CME project contractor, Valley Transit Constructors (VTC). The pricing provided from the contractor was reviewed and negotiated by City staff, after which all parties agreed to a negotiated cost that was reasonable for the proposed work.

Alternatives

The Council could choose to not include these CNPA improvements as part of the light rail project. This is not recommended since installation of these additional needs after the light rail project is complete will be more costly and disruptive to the public.

Fiscal Impact

Funding for these CNPA's is available from the Local Streets Sales Tax (LSST) and Transit Operating Budget.

Coordinated With

The Transportation and Transit Departments concur with this recommendation.