



City Council Report

Date: April 20, 2015
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 Morris Plaza Improvements
City Project C09046
District 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 to enhance the planned improvements at Morris Plaza. The total cost of the proposed improvements is \$56,000.

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.

The improvements included in this CNPA request are to modify the layout of the Morris Plaza, provide vendor power, and provide foundations and electrical services for public art pieces that will be installed under a separate contract.

The purpose of the improvements is to create an interactive public space that will attract pedestrian traffic and activity to the west end the City's downtown area.

Discussion

The request to introduce improvements to Morris Plaza was submitted to METRO for their review and concurrence. As part of this process, METRO requested pricing for these enhancements 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 not to include these CNPA improvements as part of the light rail project. If this is decided, the plaza would revert back to the basic improvements as previously proposed. This is not recommended since implementing enhancements at a future date would be more costly and disruptive to business owners and the public.

Fiscal Impact

The project is funded by Local Street Sales Tax. However, the costs will be offset by a portion of the fee received by the City from METRO for the Morris Plaza License Agreement, which was approved by Council on February 9, 2015.

Coordinated With

The Transit Services Department and Transportation Department.