



City Council Report

Date: May 20, 2013
To: City Council
Through: Kari Kent, Deputy City Manager
From: Beth Huning, City Engineer
Kelly Jensen, Assistant City Engineer
Subject: Central Mesa Light Rail Extension
City Funded Utility Improvements
City Project C09046
Council District 3
Council 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 utility 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 utility improvements located throughout the CME project. The total amount of the proposed improvements is \$2,830,863.00.

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.

This 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 include upgrades to water, sewer, and gas facilities throughout the project limits as well as adding sleeves (conduits for future utilities) under the light rail tracks in downtown to allow for future repair and/or expansion of the Chilled Water system.

The benefits of including these utility 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 new roadway pavement and traffic adjacent to the new light rail system.

Discussion

Early in the design of the CME project, Valley Metro (METRO's) identified the existing City utilities that would be in conflict with the new light rail system. At that time, City staff from the Water Resources and Energy Resources departments reviewed the existing water, wastewater, and gas facilities within the project limits and identified old and undersized facilities that were in need of upgrade throughout the project limits.

Requests to replace these facilities were submitted to METRO for their review and concurrence. As part of this process, METRO requested pricing for the design and construction of the facilities 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 as these existing facilities are beyond their expected service life and repairing or replacing them 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 2010 Gas, Water, and Wastewater Bond Authorization. Funding is also available from the Enterprise Fund for the Chilled Water improvements.

Coordinated With

The Water Resources, Energy Resources, Facilities Maintenance Departments concur with this recommendation.