



CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Item # 3

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Meeting Date: May 9, 2017

Subject: Community Development Block Grant Funding: University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements, Project TS-01035

Prepared by: Dave Brees, Special Projects Manager

Reviewed by: Susanna Chan, Public Works Director

Approved by: Chris Jordan, City Manager

Attachment:

1. Proposed University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements, Project TS-01035 description

Initiated by:

City Council

Fiscal Impact:

The FY 2017/18 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) contract will allow the City to proceed with the construction portion of the proposed University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements TS-01035 project utilizing \$170,050 CDBG CIP funds and \$40,000 City CIP funds. The proposed new project budget will increase from \$154,000 to \$210,050 for both design and construction of the improvements.

Environmental Review:

Categorically Exempt pursuant to CEQA Section 15301 (c) Improvement of Existing Facilities

Policy Question for Council Consideration:

- Does Council desire to utilize the opportunity for use of up to \$170,050 of CDBG CIP funds on the University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements TS-01035 project?

Summary:

- Modifies the University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements Project to incorporate the intersection of University Avenue and Burke Road
- Utilizes up to \$170,050 CDBG CIP project funds available for University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements TS-01035 project
- The CDBG CIP allocation to the project is the largest in recent years
- Allows for Council to consider use of up to \$170,050 CIP funds for other identified City CIP Projects

Staff Recommendation:

Move to:

1. Approve the revised University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements, Project TS-01035 project description and budget to utilize \$170,050 CDBG CIP funds and \$40,000 City CIP funds
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute the CDBG Contract for FY 2017/18
3. Appropriate up to \$170,050 of eligible CDBG funds to the University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements TS-01035 project



Subject: Community Development Block Grant Funding: University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements, Project TS-01035

Purpose

To complete the University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements Project TS-01035 utilizing an external funding source to address pedestrian safety and access barrier removals.

Background

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds are provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), through the County of Santa Clara, to small cities within the County. The program funds capital projects that benefit low and very-low income households or otherwise disadvantaged persons. Applicable capital projects include new low-income housing construction or rehabilitation and access improvements that remove existing barriers for the disabled.

The City of Los Altos has traditionally used CDBG funds to assist those considered a “Presumed Benefit”; a category of people who are presumed to be low-income, such as seniors, severely disabled adults, victims of domestic abuse, etc. by installing curb cuts, widening sidewalks, etc. which will remove a barrier impeding disabled access. On May 27, 2014, Council approved a Joint Powers Agreement with the County of Santa Clara that allows the City to continue receiving allocations from the CDBG program through September 2017.

Recently completed Capital Improvement Program projects funded by CDBG CIP grant funds include the sidewalk improvement projects on Portola Avenue, San Antonio Road, Fremont Avenue, and Downtown Parking Plaza Driveway Approaches.

Discussion/Analysis

CDBG CIP project recommendations are typically presented to Council in Spring in anticipation of a July 1 contract start date with Santa Clara County. Previous annual allocations have ranged from \$60,000 to \$130,000. In April 2017 County staff notified the City of its approval of up to \$170,050 of available CDBG CIP funding for the proposed University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements TS-01035 project.

The proposed FY 2017/18 CDBG CIP project will make improvements to two consecutive interchanges located on University Avenue at Lincoln Avenue and Burke Road. The intersections are to be improved to provide better pedestrian access to nearby schools, downtown Los Altos, Lincoln Park, and nearby churches. The improvements include replacement or installation of curb ramps, a raised crosswalk, flashing beacon system, new crosswalks, and removal of ADA barriers. These improvements will enhance pedestrian safety and overall pedestrian access by improving visibility and connectivity.



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The proposed University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements Project TS-01035 CIP description incorporates the Council's May 12, 2015 and April 26, 2016 desire to construct pedestrian improvements at the intersection of University Avenue and Burke Road in addition to the intersection of University and Lincoln Avenues. At the time, only the University and Lincoln Avenue intersection project was funded. Use of the CDBG CIP funds provides for the complete funding construction of the proposed two-intersection project.

Options

- 1) A. Approve the revised University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements TS-01035 project description and budget to utilize \$170,050 CDBG CIP funds and \$40,000 City CIP funds
- B. Authorize the City Manager to execute the Community Block Grant Contract for FY 2015/16
- C. Appropriate up to \$170,050 of eligible Community Block Grant funds to the University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements TS-01035 project

Advantages: Allows for the completion of the University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements TS-01035 project utilizing an external funding source and free up City CIP funds for use on other projects

Disadvantages: None

- 2) Not to utilize an external funding source for the completion of the University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements TS-01035 Project and complete the project with City CIP funds

Advantages: Allows for the completion of the University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements TS-01035 project

Disadvantages: Eliminates up to \$170,050 of City CIP funds for use on other identified projects

Recommendation

Staff recommends Option 1.

University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements



Transportation -- Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety

TS-01035

Priority: Health & Safety

Project Lead: D. Varela

Initial Funding Year:
2016/17

Planned Start Date:
July 2017

Target Completion Date:
December 2017

Project Status:
In Design

Expended as of March 31, 2016:
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Operating Budget Impact:
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	Prior Appropriations	2016/17 Budget	2017/18 Planned	2018/19 Planned	2019/20 Planned	2020/21 Planned	Total
Project Estimates							
University Avenue Crosswalk Improvements	--	154,000	56,050	--	--	--	210,050
Funding Sources							
CIP	--	154,000	40,000	--	--	--	40,000
CDBG CIP	--	--	170,050	--	--	--	170,050
Total	--	154,000	--	--	--	--	210,050