



## Council Agenda Report

From: Ditas Esperanza, Capital Projects Engineer

Subject: Approve a Change Order to a Contract with Stantec for Project Approval and Environmental Documents for the Niblick Road Corridor Plan

CEQA Determination: The City finds that this action is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15061, subd. (b)(2)-(3), 15378, subd. (b)(2) and (b)(5) on the basis that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

Date: July 16, 2024

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### Facts

1. In May 2018, the City was awarded a State grant to develop the [Niblick Road Complete and Sustainable Streets Plan](#) (Corridor Plan).
2. The grant was awarded to assist the City in developing a comprehensive, multimodal Corridor Plan for Niblick Road, identifying priority projects within the corridor as well as outlining project implementation funding plans.
3. The focus of the Corridor Plan is on designing tools and strategies to improve safety, access, and mobility for all modes of transportation, including walking, bicycling, transit, and motor vehicles.
4. The Plan includes detailed recommendations for physical changes to the roadway, sidewalks, bikeways, intersections, traffic controls and programmatic measures that support all users.
5. In December 2022, the [California Transportation Commission \(CTC\)](#) awarded the City an ATP Grant for the full scope of the project. The total project budget is \$17.3 million with a required City match of \$3.4 million. The ATP grant funds \$13.9 million or about 80 percent of the total estimated project costs.
6. CTC allocates the grant in phases and on March 22, 2023, an allocation was approved for the Project Approval and Environmental Documents (PAED) phase. Design and construction funding is proposed to be allocated by the CTC in Fiscal Years 2024-25 and 26-27, respectively.
7. In early January 2023, the City issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for PAED. The RFP was posted at [www.ciplist.com](http://www.ciplist.com) and on the City's website. Twenty-eight firms downloaded the RFP. On May 3, 2023, the City Council awarded a contract to Stantec for the PAED phase of the Niblick Corridor Project.
8. The improvements proposed along the Niblick Corridor from Spring Street to Creston Road will transform the corridor substantially with regards to pedestrian and bikeway access. And as such, it would benefit the project to provide a robust set of illustrative exhibits to present to the public, as part of the environmental documents.

### Community Outreach

An extensive community outreach program was conducted to gather the input of the public, businesses, school district, and transportation stakeholders. The focus was on designing tools and strategies to improve safety, access, and mobility for all modes of transportation, including walking, bicycling, transit,

and motor vehicles. Public input was gathered as part of a design charrette and Corridor Walk completed during the week of November 4, 2019, as shown below.



*The project started with a corridor walk that was conducted to experience and observe existing conditions.*

City staff also visited the Engineering class at Paso Robles High School to gather student input. The students provided excellent information and proposed a solution to crossing conflicts at Rambouillet Road. The project also included an informal steering committee with members representing the School District, City Council, Planning Commission, local businesses, bicycle and pedestrian interests and nearby residents. The group met twice to provide the City with feedback on draft plans and the grant process.



*Steering Committee Meeting reviewing information collected in the corridor and draft corridor options*

A survey was developed and released to gather Niblick Road user input on the three potential corridor alternatives. The survey gathered over 900 unique responses and provided valuable input on public preferences (Figure 1). Lastly, City staff presented the three Corridor Plan Alternatives at a City Council

Meeting for public input. The feedback ensured that the Corridor Plan reflects the community's needs and priorities.

### **Options**

1. Take no action;
2. Approve a change order in the amount of \$106,600 to Stantec to provide additional services and illustrative exhibits to refine the project aesthetic features to support the Project Approval Environmental Documents (PAED) for the Niblick Road Corridor Project; or
3. Provide alternative direction to staff.

### **Analysis and Conclusions**

Since the award of contract on May 3, 2023, Stantec has been diligently preparing the technical studies and analysis reports to support the environmental documents that will ultimately be circulated to the public and conclude with its adoption by the City Council. The project scope includes a comprehensive overhaul of the Corridor that will include a raised multi-purpose path with a barrier to protect pedestrians and bicyclists from traffic, enhancements to existing block walls, enhancements and improvements of pedestrian crossings, signage, and lighting. During design development review, it became apparent that it would be beneficial for the public and all other stakeholders to be able to review and visualize these improvements with robust illustrative exhibits. These illustrative exhibits will strongly support the environmental documents for acceptance and approvals. To that end as a change order to its contract, Stantec will be preparing these exhibits in the amount of \$106,600, as detailed in the attached scope of work for additional services.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The City will be reimbursed for the cost of these additional services by the ATP Grant, in the amount of \$106,600, and no other action is required.

### **CEQA**

CEQA Determination: The City finds that this action is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15061, subd. (b)(2)-(3), 15378, subd. (b)(2) and (b)(5) on the basis that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

### **Recommendation (Option 2)**

Approve Resolution No. 24-XXX, authorizing a change order in the amount of \$106,600 to Stantec's contract for the preparation of additional services and illustrative exhibits to refine the project aesthetic features to support the Project Approval Environmental Documents (PAED) for the Niblick Road Corridor Project.

### **Attachments**

1. Resolution No. 24-XXX – Niblick Corridor Plan Change Order
2. Stantec Additional Scope of Work