



## Council Agenda Report

From: Ditas Esperanza, Capital Projects Engineer

Subject: Approval of a Resolution Authorizing a Change Order to Rick Engineering and the Consultant Services Agreement for the North River Road Bike Path Project

CEQA Determination: The City finds that this action is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") under the Class 1 exemption, which applies to the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features where the project involves negligible or no expansion of existing or former use (State CEQA Guidelines, § 15301).

Date: February 18, 2025

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### Facts

1. In 2007, the City issued a Request for Proposals to prepare preliminary designs for a bike path along North River Road from South River Road to River Oaks Drive.
2. Rick Engineering was selected to prepare the preliminary design; however, due to a lack of further funding, the project was put on hold and the final design was not completed.
3. In December 2018, the City Council adopted a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP). The Master Plan envisioned a "Grand Loop Trail" surrounding the outer parts of the City, as highlighted in Attachment No. 2. This plan identified the North River Road as a segment of this overall plan.
4. In 2022, the City received a San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Cycle 1 Betterment grant in the amount of \$300,000 to review the 2007 design and finalize the preliminary work that had been completed.
5. In August 2023, Rick Engineering provided a scope of work and fee proposal in the amount of \$66,700 to review the 2007 design and provide an update to what is required to prepare the final design of the bike path.
6. The approved fee was used by Rick Engineering to develop feasible alternatives for the bike path which City staff and SLOCOG staff have reviewed. It is recommended that Rick Engineering complete the design development phase by preparing the following:
  - Final concept plan of the alternative selected by City and SLOCOG staff;
  - Final Project Development Report (PDR);
  - Structural consultation and structural design of an elevated bike path;
  - Record of survey to resolve boundary issues and determination of property lines; and
  - Geotechnical investigation and report.
7. This change order to Rick Engineering's contract for the revised design, in the amount of \$193,382, exceeds staff's preauthorized limits and requires City Council approval under the City's Purchasing Policy.

## **Options**

1. Take no action;
2. Approve Resolution 25-XXX authorizing a change order in the amount of \$193,382 to Rick Engineering's contract for the North River Road Bike Path Project; or
3. Provide alternative direction to staff.

## **Analysis and Conclusions**

In 2018, the City Council adopted the 2018 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP). The BPMP is the guiding policy document that establishes local priorities for bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The 2018 BPMP also places a strong focus on bike and pedestrian safety and education. Safe facilities and proper training programs would encourage users to enjoy the benefits of bicycling and walking to their destinations.

This proposed project is to construct the next segment of the City pedestrian and bike ring pathway, located along the scenic Salinas River, beginning at the 13th Street Bridge and ending at River Oaks Drive, just north of the Highway 46 bridge. The project will also provide a safer connection to the downtown area for residents who live north of Highway 46 East and separate non-motorists from traffic. Preliminary design, environmental documents, etc. have been funded, in part, by the SLOCOG grant mentioned above.

It is recommended that Rick Engineering complete the design development phase by preparing a final concept plan, Project Development Report, structural engineering, record of survey, and geotechnical investigation and report. By approving the change order, the City will be in the prime position to receive grant funding for construction. The City has already set aside \$1 million of the General Fund for the City's anticipated matching requirements. Additionally, SLOCOG has awarded the City an additional \$800,000 in anticipation of plans for the North River Road Bike Path being finalized, and construction initiated in the near future.

## **Fiscal Impact**

The total change order to Rick Engineering is \$193,382. This project is included as part of the adopted Capital Improvement Budget for FY 2024-25 and reimbursed through the SLOCOG Betterment Grant. As such, no other action is required.

## **CEQA**

The City finds that this action is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") under the Class 1 exemption, which applies to the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features where the project involves negligible or no expansion of existing or former use (State CEQA Guidelines, § 15301).

## **Recommendation (Option 2)**

Approve Resolution 25-XXX, approving a Change Order to the Consultant Services Agreement with Rick Engineering in the amount of \$193,382 for the North River Road Bike Path Project.

## **Attachments**

1. Resolution 25-XXX – North River Road Bike Path Project – Rick Engineering Change Order
2. Grand Loop Trail Master Plan Exhibit
3. Rick Engineering Scope and Fee