



Memorandum Engineering Division

January 07, 2015

To: Planning Commission
From: Thomas Frank, Transportation Engineering Manager *TF*
Subject: North El Camino Real Class I bicycle path project landscaping design
Copies: William E. Cameron, Public Works Director / City Engineer
 Thomas Bonigut, Assistant City Engineer
 Jim Pechous, City Planner

ISSUE:

Should the Planning Commission forward to the City Council a recommendation to approve the conceptual landscape design for the project?

BACKGROUND:

The City received a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant to help construct a 0.9-mile long Class I bicycle path project on the ocean side of North El Camino Real (ECR) between Camino Capistrano and Avenida Estacion. The project also consists of restriping, upgrading existing ADA ramps and modifications to two traffic signals. Since the programming of the grant funds in 2012, the City Council have approved a conceptual design and staff is working to complete the improvement plans and permitting for the project.

The Planning Commission reviewed the conceptual designs in January 2014 and recommended:

- Approval to the City Council;
- Including as much landscaping as can be accommodated in the budget including an abundance of vertical landscaping to create safety and security for all users;
- Applying the new standards in the General Plan; and
- Increasing the project funds to support creation of a gateway as part of this project.

The City Council approved the conceptual design on March 4, 2014 and the 60% design drawings on July 1, 2016 and directed staff to proceed with landscaping and irrigation design for the entire landscape median area, to include value engineered options for Council's contemplation, and work collaboratively with the California

Joint Powers Insurance Association (CJPIA) to ensure the highest safety standards for the subject project.

The City contracted with BGB Design Group (BGB) who completed the conceptual design provided in Attachment 1. Unfortunately, the location of the proposed landscaped median is over an existing 24 inch sewer main which precludes the installations of trees within the median. However, BGB's design incorporates varying plants heights and boulders to provide a comfortable separation from the vehicle travel lanes in conformance with Caltrans design guidelines. The proposed landscaping provides an aesthetic feature that supports a gateway statement for the entry to the City.

As directed by the City Council, staff reviewed the project with a CJPIA representative who is supportive of the project and suggested including wayfinding signage to inform bicyclists using the Pacific Coast Bicycle Route (PCBR) of the approaching protected pedestrian and bicycle path. The CJPIA representative also suggested using wording easily understood by a typical PCBR user. Staff will include the suggested wayfinding signs in the project and coordinate with the CJPIA on the appropriate language for the signs. .

The Design Review Committee provided an informal review of the project's conceptual landscaping design on December 10, 2014 and supported the design concepts given the constraints presented by the existing utilities.

The project construction is being coordinated with the Marblehead Coastal Development's roadway improvements and will be constructed following the completion of their North El Camino Real frontage improvements. The current project milestones include:

Completion of Improvement Plans	
Environmental Documentation, and Permitting	February 2015
Caltrans Approval for Construction	April 2014
City Council Approval of Improvement Plans	May 2014
Project Construction (anticipated)	Summer 2015

RECOMMENDATION:

STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the Planning Commission forward to the City Council a recommendation to approve the landscaping conceptual design for the project provided in Attachment 1.

Attachments:

1. Project Conceptual Design



PHILOSOPHY

The North El Camino Class I bicycle trail will provide the northern coastal entrance to San Clemente's "Spanish Village by the Sea" by enhancing the well-established mix of coastal plant material that sets the City of San Clemente apart from other coastal cities. The Village character, as defined by the foresight of Ole Hanson, has matured to the unique and quaint historical seaside community of today.

Through the perseverance of many, the Coastal Pedestrian Trail was completed in 2008 and offers a 2.3 mile coastal experience unique to Southern California. The mix of native plantings, combined with crushed rock mulch trail edging, provides inspiration for the North El Camino Bicycle trail. Small scaled coastal succulents and grasses with boulders interspersed will make up the landscaped median, separating the vehicular and bicycle travel ways. This bicycle trail will become the "gateway" into the Village that will stand apart from neighboring Dana Point. It is intended to have a "resort" feel with the rich mix of plantings, but in an understated manner similar to the plantings found along the coastal bluff at the Montage Resort in Laguna Beach.

Drainage from the vehicular travel ways will pass through channels that will be spaced at distances supported by hydraulic calculations. Matching rock mulch and small scaled boulders will modulate the succulent and grass plantings.

1) Ocean View Condition (near Poche Beach): A combination of ornamental grasses and succulents will showcase this condition, 2) Non-Ocean View Condition (Capistrano Shores): Succulents with scattered coastal perennials will dominate the landscape to demark this portion of the coastal trail. Low stone pilasters (similar to beach trail) may be included at each end of the beach with identifying mosaic.



NORTH EL CAMINO REAL BICYCLE TRAIL





CONDITION 'A' OCEAN VIEW

- LEGEND
- ① CRUSHED ROCK MULCH
 - ② ASPHALT DRAINAGE CHANNEL - 80-100 O.C.
 - ③ BOULDERS
 - ④ GRASSES
 - ⑤ SUCCULENTS, AGAVE SPP, ALOES SPP
 - * POTENTIAL STONE PILASTER MONUMENTATION



CONDITION 'B' NON OCEAN VIEW

NORTH EL CAMINO REAL BICYCLE TRAIL

CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

CONCEPTUAL LANDSCAPE SITE PLAN

BGB | DESIGN GROUP

Landscape Architecture Planning Urban Design

3185 C Airway Avenue Costa Mesa, CA 92626 info.bgb-inc.com
 O: 714 543 2878 F: 714 543 2898 www.bgb-inc.com

L-2

12-05-2014



OCEAN VIEW PERSPECTIVE



NON-OCEAN VIEW PERSPECTIVE



OCEAN VIEW - PLAN VIEW

Scale 1" = 20'-0"



NON-OCEAN VIEW - PLAN VIEW



NORTH EL CAMINO REAL
CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN

BGB | DESIGN GROUP
Landscape Architecture Planning Urban Design
3185 C Arroyo Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 info@bgb-inc.com
O: 714-545-2878 F: 714-545-7898 www.bgb-inc.com

L-3
12-05-2014