



City of Arts & Innovation

Park and Recreation Commission

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: JULY 19, 2021**

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE GAGE CANAL TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS MASTER PLAN PROJECT

ISSUE:

Receive an update and provide feedback for the Gage Canal Trail Improvements Master Plan Project.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Park and Recreation Commission receives an update and provides feedback on the Gage Canal Trail Improvements Master Plan Project.

BACKGROUND:

On July 21, 2020, the Purchasing Division posted RFP No. 2032 on the City's online bidding website. On August 11, 2020, three proposals were received. After a thorough review by the Purchasing Division, it was found that two proposals were deemed non-responsive. The selection committee consisted of four staff members from multiple City Departments. The committee reviewed and scored the remaining proposal and interviewed the firms. Alta Planning + Design, Inc. received a high rating based on their proposal submission. After the interview, Staff negotiated with Alta Planning + Design, Inc. to reduce their price by \$70,811.81.

On December 1, 2020, City Council approved the agreement for RFP No. 2032, Gage Canal Trail Improvements Master Plan with Alta Planning + Design, Inc., of Portland, Oregon, in an amount not to exceed \$532,431.65.

DISCUSSION:

Existing Conditions

Gage Canal Trail is an existing informal and unpaved path that follows the Gage Canal and is located within a City-owned easement. Phase I of the project is approximately a two-mile stretch starting from Palmyrita Avenue, running southwest along the edge of the Box Springs Mountain Reserve and south across Spruce Street ending at the UC Riverside Campus at Blaine Street.

Community Input

Beginning April 1, 2021, Alta Planning + Design (Alta) and the City of Riverside Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department polled Riverside residents and stakeholders about their current and anticipated use of and amenity preferences for the Gage Canal Multi-Purpose Recreational Trail. This brief 5-minute, 8 question survey was designed as a “low friction” opportunity for the community to share their experiences and perspectives on walking, biking, and recreating along the trail without a significant imposition on their time. Survey results and themes will be utilized by the City and Alta to inform design direction, programming, and trail amenities.

The survey, which was available in English and Spanish both digitally and in print, was promoted and distributed to Riverside stakeholders in a variety of formats. Each survey question was accompanied by a variety of response options so that respondents needed only to select their relevant choice(s), with a final open-ended prompt provided for those that wanted to share additional thoughts or recommendations for the project team to consider.

While open for input from all stakeholders, the project team targeted advertisements to those that lived, worked, or played near the Gage Canal. This included households within a ¼ mile radius of the project area (including the disadvantaged communities near the Trail’s northern and southern ends), UC Riverside students and faculty, RUSD and AUSD students and parents, and current Trail users. The survey remained open for input from April 1 through June 1, 2021, with a total of 545 responses.

Master Plan

The proposed Master Plan Design attempts to create a Class I asphalt concrete shared use path and an unpaved path within an existing city-owned water utility easement. The trail corridor will be landscaped with native and climate appropriate trees, shrubs, and will feature additional amenities including entry plazas, trailside seating, bicycle racks, interpretive signage, and solar lighting. It will create a continuous off-street multipurpose trail connection from Palmyrita Avenue to Blaine Street, and will offer local residents both recreational opportunities and a connection to the Box Springs Reserve.

Budget

On October 1, 2019, City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application for the California Natural Resources Agency Urban Greening Grant Program in the amount of \$3,708,509 for the design and implementation of the Gage Canal Multi-Purpose Recreational Trail Phase I.

On April 1, 2020, City of Riverside entered into an agreement with the State of California Natural Resources Agency for the Gage Canal Multi-Purpose Recreational Trail Phase I in the amount of \$3,708,509.

The recommended construction budget based on the consultant’s estimate is \$3,175,000.

CEQA Determination

With guidance from project CEQA consultants and the City Attorney’s Office, the PRCSD staff have determined that this Master Plan project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to SB 288 of the Public Resources Code 21080.20. The proposed project is designed to implement new active transportation while located in an urbanized area and within an existing public right-of-way, and does not require the demolition of affordable housing units, and will not add physical infrastructure that increases new automobile capacity or

include the addition of any auxiliary lanes. Upon Council adoption of the Park Master Plan, the PRCSD staff will prepare a Notice of Exemption (NOE) documentation for the project and file with the County Clerk.

The attached presentation provides a further detailed update on the project as well as the final Conceptual Master Plan and rendering images.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this update. This projects construction phase is estimated to cost a total of \$3,175,000.

Prepared by: Randy McDaniel, Deputy Director

Approved by: Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director

Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager

Attachments: 1. PowerPoint Presentation
2. Draft Master Plan