



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

People serving people.

December 17, 2013

Robert Beaumont

DIRECTOR

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Administration
PO Box 4186
San Rafael, CA 94913-4186
415 473 6528 T
415 473 3799 F
415 473 3232 TTY
CRS Dial 711
www.marincounty.org/pw

SUBJECT: Approval of Preferred Concept Plan and
Civic Center Drive Circulation Improvements Project
Project No. CAP 13-001

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: (1) Accept report; and (2) approve preferred concept plan for Civic Center Drive Circulation Improvements.

SUMMARY: On July 24, 2012, your Board approved funding for infrastructure improvements along Civic Center Drive in the vicinity of the Marin Center. These improvements will include accessible pedestrian and bicycle facilities that provide seamless connectivity between the Civic Center campus, the new SMART Civic Center rail station and the anticipated permanent farmers market site to be located on the 'Christmas Tree' lot. The primary project goals are to integrate pedestrian and bicycle connections, improve Civic Center Drive circulation/traffic safety, and create a sense of scale and welcoming to the Civic Center campus. During the past 8 months, preliminary concept plans have been developed by a design consulting team, whose contract your Board approved on January 24, 2013. Through a collaborative process which included numerous meetings with a subcommittee of your Board, various County departments, an intermodal working group (comprised of County, City of San Rafael, SMART, and Marin Transit staff), and the Agricultural Institute of Marin, preliminary concept plans for the proposed improvements were created.

These preliminary concept plans were presented at a joint meeting of the FLW Civic Center Conservancy and the Cultural Services Commission on September 25, as well as two public workshops held on September 26 & 28. Over 500 direct mail notices were sent to local residents, homeowner associations, and other potentially interested community groups. At their October 21 meeting, the San Rafael City Council received a presentation of the project concepts and traffic analysis. The concept plan was well received and the City Council expressed support for the project.

Following these presentations and in consideration of all of the comments received, project concept plans were updated and an alternative concept plan was developed which provides for separated bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the west side of Civic Center Drive. The updated plans were presented again to the public at a workshop held on November 20. Updates were also provided to the Board ad hoc subcommittee, Cultural Services Commission on November 16, and to the FLW Civic Center Conservancy on December 2. The consensus received at the meetings was that the separated bicycle path alternative be pursued as the preferred concept plan. Staff conferred with the intermodal working group and also

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received endorsement for the preferred concept plan. The City of San Rafael Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee also expressed support for the preferred concept plan at their December meeting.

The preferred concept plan includes provisions for new sidewalks, Class 2 bike lanes, two-way bicycle path, landscaping, a roundabout at Peter Behr Drive, enhanced pedestrian safety improvements and improved bus transit stops. Traffic circulation analyses were conducted to evaluate the impacts of intersection improvement alternatives (including a traffic signal and roundabout) at the Peter Behr Drive/Memorial Drive intersection. The City of San Rafael also conducted an independent traffic analysis which incorporated future SMART train operation potential impacts. Based on these analyses, County and City staff have concluded that a roundabout is the preferred intersection improvement for the Peter Behr Drive/Memorial Drive intersection. Class 2 bike lanes are also proposed in both directions along Civic Center Drive. A new two-way bicycle path is proposed to be constructed along the west side of Civic Center Drive, extending from the planned SMART multi-use path at the rail station to the Peter Behr Drive intersection. Landscaping buffers will be provided between the roadway and bicycle path/sidewalks (see attached Exhibits).

Subject to your Board's approval for the preferred concept plan, staff is now prepared to move forward in January with environmental analyses and preparation of an Initial Study in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Advanced design efforts will also begin in January to further refine the preferred concept plan. In order to create a sense of welcoming for the northern entrance to the Civic Center campus, 'gateway' improvements (such as landscaping, lighting, and signage) will be developed as part of the advanced design phase, based on recommendations in the 2005 Marin Civic Center Master Design Guidelines and concepts, prepared in conjunction with the Marin Center Renaissance Partnership visioning process. Staff will continue to include your Board, the Agricultural Institute of Marin, other County Departments and commissions, and the public as the detail design moves forward.

FISCAL IMPACT: Your Board previously allocated \$2 million to fund this project. Staff has also secured \$650,000 in Federal grant funding. We will keep your Board informed as design details and more accurate cost estimates are developed. There is no impact by this action.

REVIEWED BY:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Department of Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	County Counsel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Respectfully submitted,



Pat Echols
Principal Civil Engineer

Attachments: Preferred Concept Plan, Exhibit 1
Preferred Concept Street View, Exhibit 2



c: Jim Farley, Cultural Services Director
David Speer, Facilities Planning & Development Manager
Linda Dahl, Parks Director
Brian Crawford, Director of Community Development
Nancy Mackle, City Manager, City of San Rafael
Nader Mansourian, San Rafael Public Works Director
David Rzepinski, Marin Transit General Manager
Farhad Mansourian, SMART General Manager
Brigitte Moran, Agricultural Institute of Marin