

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b> October 9, 2017
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> 37 <b>Roll Call No.</b> <u>17-1755</u> <b>Communication No.</b> <u>17-710</u> <b>Submitted by:</b> Phillip Delafield, Community Development Director

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Communication from City staff in the Community Development and Engineering Departments regarding the 6th Avenue Streetscape Project.

**SYNOPSIS:**

The Community Development Department received a letter on August 18, 2017 from the board of directors for the 6th Avenue Corridor, Inc. (6AC) requesting that the City revisit the streetscape design for 6th Avenue. Specifically, the 6AC has requested that the City consider incorporating a 2-way cycle track into the streetscape plan. In order to accommodate a 2-way cycle track, an additional lane of traffic would need to be removed. Staff from the Community Development and Engineering Departments would like to conduct a traffic study in order to determine the impacts this may have.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: Approximately \$24,500 for a traffic study for 6th Avenue.

Funding Source: Capital Improvement Program – Street Improvements – Sixth Avenue Streetscape – C038EG99 ST266, Page 34

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- The 6th Avenue Streetscape Project is a \$7.1 million dollar streetscape project that will improve a 1.2-mile long stretch from I-235 to Hickman Road.
- The current streetscape design proposes to reduce the number of travel lanes from 5-lanes to 3-lanes, as well as construct wider sidewalks, bus shelters, street trees, green infrastructure, landscaping, benches, bike racks, and other pedestrian amenities.
- Incorporating a 2-way cycle track into the 6th Avenue Streetscape Project would reduce the number of travel lanes from 5-lanes to 2-lanes, which is a dramatic change for a minor arterial roadway that carries over 16,000 vehicles per day.
- The Bicycle and Trail Master Plan suggest that a bicycle boulevard or quiet street be established on 9th Street. The Master Plan suggests that 6th Avenue be a shared roadway with signage, which is what is currently called for in the streetscape plan.

- Right-of-way constraints along 6th Avenue make it difficult to add a proper bicycle facility in addition to a transformative streetscape project that includes wide sidewalks, bus shelters, green infrastructure, landscaping, and dedicated on-street parking.
- A community meeting was held on September 28, 2017 to discuss the 6AC's request for a 2-way cycle track in greater detail. There is some community support for the idea. However, there are also concerns about how potential design changes may impact safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists alike.
- Staff from the Community Development Department and Engineering Department are requesting to use Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding to conduct a traffic study to evaluate the potential impacts of the 6AC's request and to respond with additional options for the streetscape design.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: November 9, 2015

Roll Call Number: [15-1874](#)

Action: [Memorandum](#) of Understanding with the 6th Avenue Corridor, Inc. for the implementation of Phase 1 of the 6th Avenue Streetscape Project. ([Council Communication 15-590](#)) Moved by Gray to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Normal Council action for administration of construction contracts.

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