



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

March 20, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From:  Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Claudette Ford, Director, Public Works Department

Subject: Contract Amendment: Downtown BART Plaza and Transit Area Design Plan

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the contract with Community Design + Architecture Inc. (CD+A), increasing the amount from \$90,000 to an amount not to exceed \$150,000, and extending the termination date to October 31, 2008.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

This contract amendment will add \$60,000 to the existing contract amount of \$90,000. The source of funds is Measure B bike and pedestrian funds (budget code 392-4950-431-3038-05TP19). The CMS number is GGSNY.

The City has received a \$5 million allocation in Tier One funding from the Alameda Countywide Transportation Plan for the Downtown BART Plaza area. For the City to attract these funds, detailed construction cost estimates with an accompanying project schedule in conformance with California Transportation Commission guidelines, must be developed prior to state and federal fund disbursements. The City currently has two applications pending with the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency for this project. Attracting other future grant funds, such as the Transportation for Livable Communities Capital Grant program, also requires the development and adoption of design and construction plans.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In July 2005 Council approved a contract with Community Design+ Architecture (No. 6810) to lead a public planning and design process for the Downtown Berkeley BART Plaza and Transit area in the amount of \$90,000 for the period of August 1, 2005 to October 31, 2007. This amendment is needed to complete construction estimates, an environmental checklist, detailed design work and project schedule for short-term improvements for this project.

The design process was completed in 2007 and resulted in two outcomes:

1. Conceptual plans for near-term capital improvements for the BART Plaza Area;
2. Four long-term alternatives (which have been referred to the Downtown Plan Advisory Committee).

On June 20, 2006, the Transportation Commission recommended moving forward with the near-term improvements. The Downtown Berkeley Association also supports moving forward with the near-term concept plan.

The City is currently pursuing funding to begin these improvements. However, these fund sources require detailed cost estimates, an environmental checklist, construction drawings and project delivery schedule. This work will cost approximately \$60,000 and will be paid for with Measure B bicycle and pedestrian funds. Once these are completed, staff can pursue construction grants.

BACKGROUND

Downtown Berkeley is a regionally important transportation hub with an aging and increasingly crowded transportation system. On top of this already stressed transportation system, a large number of major developments threaten to overwhelm the transportation infrastructure. These developments include AC Transit's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) northern terminus, new residential development, a proposed hotel/conference center and art museum relocation, UC Berkeley's growth, and other intensification of uses. These developments are all generally positive, but will have considerable impact on transportation in the area, especially the pedestrian and bicycling environment in the BART plaza transit area and the interconnectivity between BART and the surrounding taxi zone and bus and shuttle stops.

Although the City has taken numerous steps to encourage alternative modes of transportation in the area, including the establishment of the BART Bike Station, City CarShare, parking price and policy changes, installation of bus shelters, and improvements to pedestrian, bicycle, taxi, shuttle and bus circulation, this commitment must now be matched by the development of safe, and attractive transportation alternatives to meet the increased demands of the area. At the current time, the public space and pedestrian amenities are inadequate for the numbers of people using them, and are aging and aesthetically unappealing.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The work described above must be completed in order for the City to receive State and federal funds to begin the project construction. For the City to attract these funds, detailed construction cost estimates, design plans and an environmental checklist with an accompanying project schedule must be developed prior to state and federal fund disbursements. The City currently has two grant applications pending with the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency for this project.

The Office of Transportation does not have the skills or resources to develop the design plan and detailed construction cost estimates in-house.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No other alternatives have been considered.

CONTACT PERSON

Peter Hillier, Assistant City Manager for Transportation, 981-7010
Matt Nichols, Principal Transportation Planner, 981-7068

Attachments:
1:Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT AMENDMENT: TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURAL
CONSULTANT FOR DOWNTOWN BART PLAZA PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Downtown BART Plaza project is included in the Alameda Countywide Transportation Program and MTC Regional Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, State and federal grant sources require detailed design work, an environmental checklist, project schedule and construction estimates before funds can be allocated; and

WHEREAS, Community Design and Architecture, Inc., a transportation planning and architecture consulting firm, has performed satisfactorily all of the analysis and documentation to date and is currently under contract to complete the required work if funding is available; and

WHEREAS, the City has \$60,000 in Measure B bicycle and pedestrian funds (budget code 392-4950-431-3038-05TP19; CMS No. GGSNY), set aside specifically to support the Downtown Berkeley BART Plaza project; and

WHEREAS, the current contract (No. 6810) for \$90,000 will be increased to an amount not to exceed \$150,000 and the expanded scope requires an extended termination date of October 31, 2008.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley authorizes the City Manager to execute an amendment to the contract with Community Design + Architecture Inc., increasing the amount from \$90,000 to an amount not to exceed \$150,000, and extending the termination date to October 31, 2008.

