

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: August 15, 2016

To: The Honorable City Council
c/o City Clerk, Room 395

Attention: Honorable Mitch O'Farrell, Chair, Arts, Parks, and River Committee

From: Gary Lee Moore, PE, ENV SP, City Engineer
Bureau of Engineering



Subject: North Atwater Non-Motorized Multimodal Bridge over the Los Angeles River

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor:

1. Authorize the City Engineer to execute a gift agreement to accept a gift of environmental documents, design plans, executed permits/agreements, and transfers of grant funding for the North Atwater Non-Motorized Multimodal Bridge over the Los Angeles River, from River LA, formerly known as the Los Angeles River Revitalization Corporation;
2. Authorize the Bureau of Engineering to accept project management responsibilities for the implementation of the North Atwater Non-Motorized Multimodal Bridge including bid and award responsibilities, and, if built, accept ownership of the bridge for the City and assume responsibility for its inspection;
3. Instruct the Bureau of Engineering to report back to City Council on the cost and schedule of an alternative design approach to the design plans gifted from River LA;
4. Direct the Departments of Building and Safety, Cultural Affairs, Recreation and Parks, Water and Power, and others, as necessary, to provide their services on an in-kind basis to support the bridge project's implementation;
5. Direct the Bureau of Street Services to report back on the maintenance of the proposed bridge once completed and the alternative design;
6. Instruct the Controller to establish an Account to be used for acceptance of the funds as part of the gift agreement;
7. Authorize the City Engineer to make any technical corrections or clarifications to the above instructions.

DISCUSSION

The proposed North Atwater Non-Motorized Multimodal Bridge over the Los Angeles River (Project) is a non-motorized, multimodal bridge that is located approximately one-half mile upstream of Los Feliz Boulevard. It will connect the east side of the Los Angeles River to Griffith Park on the west. The bridge would be approximately 35 feet wide with two separate paths, one designated for equestrian use and the other shared by pedestrians and bicyclists. The proposed Project is project #147 of the City's Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (Adopted 2007, C.F. 06-0186).

River LA, a non-profit organization, was established in 2009 (C.F. 07-1343-S6) to further the long range goals of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan, adopted by City Council in 2007 (C.F. 07-1342). Chief among River LA's objectives are to foster public-private partnerships by attracting investments from outside parties, including the private sector and individuals, to help build capital projects within the Los Angeles River corridor. To this end, River LA successfully attracted funds from a private philanthropist in 2011 to design and construct a multi-modal (pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian) bridge across the Los Angeles River connecting Griffith Park to the North Atwater community. River LA has been the responsible entity for the design, estimate, specifications, and all permits/easements and agreements necessary to construct the bridge structure. River LA also applied for various grants to supplement a private donor's funds for construction of the Project. The Bureau of Engineering completed the environmental clearance, which was approved by City Council (C.F. 12-0533) on September 17, 2013. The Project has all necessary permits, 100% plans and specifications, and will need an extension on a permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

River LA applied for, and was awarded on December 10, 2014, an Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant in the amount of \$3,660,000 for a non-motorized, multimodal bridge across the Los Angeles River. In November 2015, the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) was requested to participate in discussions between River LA and the California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans). As a requirement of the ATP and all federal programs, grant applicants must be able to enter into an Administering Agency-State Master Agreement (MA) with Caltrans, and must pass a pre-agreement audit. River LA was in the process of meeting Caltrans' requirements. However during the pre-agreement audit, Caltrans identified inadequate procurement procedures, and a MA between River LA and Caltrans could not be executed. River LA received a one-time 12 month extension from June 2015 to June 2016 on the ATP grant for funding allocation. Due to the grant funds being at risk by June 2016, Caltrans recommended that River LA transfer the project to be under the City of Los Angeles (City) executed MA, and work with the City to implement the Project. As such, the original objective to gift a completed bridge to the City (CF 11-1246) has changed, and River LA now intends to transfer the ATP grant and all other grant funds to the City, and deliver and assign all project documents including those necessary for the construction of the Project, per a gift agreement.

FISCAL IMPACTS

BOE has reviewed the current cost estimate provided by River LA, and has concerns that there may be a shortfall of available funds for all project costs. The total project cost to complete, as estimated by BOE, is \$13,023,614, which includes: construction cost estimated at \$9,300,000, contingency (10% of construction cost), construction permit fees, construction management, design support during construction, inspection, and maintenance costs for ten years. Current sources of funding available are as follows:

| FUND SOURCES AVAILABLE TO COMPLETE PROJECT | AMOUNT AVAILABLE |
|---|-------------------------|
| Council District 4 (CF 11-1246) | \$257,286 |
| LA Dept. of Water & Power via City of LA- Bureau of Engineering (CF 11-1246-S1) | \$220,000 |
| Los Angeles County Third Supervisorial District (CF 15-0403) | \$333,000 |
| California Community Foundation | \$75,000 |
| Caltrans Active Transportation Program | \$3,660,000 |
| Private Donor – Morton La Kretz (Pending Gift Agreement with City) | \$3,672,634 |
| MICLA Financing in the 2016-17 Adopted Budget | \$1,000,000 |
| TOTAL AVAILABLE: | \$9,217,920 |
| TOTAL COST TO COMPLETE: | \$13,023,614 |
| FINAL VARIANCE/SHORTFALL: | -\$3,805,694 |

BOE will advertise the project for bids, and should the lowest responsive bid received by a responsible bidder be in excess of available funding, BOE will report back to City Council on fiscal impacts.

POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FUNDING

As part of the gift agreement, River LA will work with BOE to identify potential sources of funding, such as the federal ATP and the Recreational Trails Program, to supplement any shortfall. BOE is also pursuing other sources of funding for this Project.

cc: Barbara Romero, Office of the Mayor
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