

# MINUTES

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## REGULAR MEETING OF THE LANCASTER ARCHITECTURAL AND DESIGN COMMISSION

April 4, 2013

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### CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Bartholet called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Hawse.

### ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioners Bowers, Carlson, Hawse, Mercy, Wiley, and Vice Chair Bartholet.

ABSENT: Chairperson Bartlett.

Also present were Kelvin Tainatongo (Assistant to the City Manager), Chuen Ng (Associate Planner), Michelle Cantrell (City Engineer), Marissa Diaz (Senior Capital Engineer), Ray Hunt (Capital Engineering Manager), Luis Garibay (Sr. Projects Coordinator), Mario Enriquez (Associate Traffic Engineer), Marion Coleman (Recording Secretary), and an audience of one person.

### PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

### CONSENT CALENDAR

#### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Mercy and seconded by Commissioner Wiley to approve the minutes from the Meeting of February 7, 2013. Motion carried with the following vote (6-0-0-1).

AYES: Commissioners Bowers, Carlson, Hawse, Mercy, Wiley, and Vice Chair Bartholet.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: Chairperson Bartlett.

Chuen Ng welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Bowers, and excused the absence of Chairperson Bartlett and Planning Director Brian Ludicke.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **2. DOWNTOWN LANCASTER GATEWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

**Presenter: Marissa Diaz, Capital Engineering Division**

#### **BRIEF HISTORY:**

- 2009 Metro Call for Projects - City of Lancaster submitted the Downtown Lancaster Gateway and Roundabout Project for consideration of grant funding
- 2010 TE (Transportation Enhancement) Federal Funds Programmed – City obtained programming for \$895,000
- 2012 City Council Re-scope – Capital Engineering staff worked with Metro and Caltrans eliminating the roundabout and replacing with curb extensions, known as “bulb-outs”
- 2013 CTC (California Transportation Commission) Allocation of TE Funds – City secured allocation of \$727,159 in Federal TE funds for construction of the re-scoped project, now known as the Downtown Lancaster Gateway Project.
- 2014 Construction – as requested by the City Manager, to avoid summer events and holidays on “The BLVD”, construction will commence January 2014, and expected to be completed in May 2014

#### **DESIGN APPROACH:**

- Extend, match, mimic and compliment existing decorative elements, materials, and themes approved and already in place on The Blvd
- Reinforce The Blvd branding
- Reiterate the concept and theme of The Blvd as a “Destination for the Senses”
- Hardscape and Amenities
  - ❖ Concrete Pavers
  - ❖ Flagstone Accent Paving
  - ❖ Street Lights
  - ❖ Street Furniture
  - ❖ Bus Stop
  - ❖ Crosswalks and Raised Medians
  - ❖ Planter Wall Facing
  - ❖ Trellis Supports and Light Fixtures
  - ❖ Bike Racks
  - ❖ Plaza
- Plant Materials
  - ❖ Chine Pistache Trees
  - ❖ London Plane Trees
  - ❖ Rosemary Shrubs
  - ❖ Yucca Shrubs
  - ❖ Sage Shrubs

- ❖ Sycamore Trees
- ❖ Fruitless Olive Trees
- ❖ Regal Mist Shrubs
- ❖ Dwarf Coyote Brush Groundcover
- ❖ Evening Primrose Groundcover
- ❖ Dalea Groundcover
- The BLVD Branding
  - ❖ Entry Monument Signs
  - ❖ Custom Pavers
  - ❖ Street Light Pole Embossing
  - ❖ Custom Skate Deterrents

**AESTHETIC IMPROVEMENTS:**

- Landscaped Median Island and Gateway Monument Sign
- Northwest Corner and Raised Paver Median
- Northeast Corner
- Southeast Corner
- Enhanced Landscape Area and Southwest Corner

**TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS:**

- Curb Extensions, AKA “Corner Bulb-Outs”
- Raised Median Islands
- Additional Curb Ramps
- Upgraded Traffic Signals
- Pavement Markings and Striping
- Closed Driveways and Modified Alley Approach

The benefits of the traffic improvements will reduce speeds through the intersection by approximately 5mph, decrease pedestrian crossing distance, and eliminate all left turns and through movements from driveways on Lancaster Boulevard along proposed raised medians.

Commissioner Wiley inquired about the change from the roundabout design. Marissa Diaz stated the major concern was the expense; because of the right-of-way, the entire intersection would have to be reconstructed.

Commissioner Hawse asked if Aven’s Furniture and the office building on the northeast corner were contacted regarding the roundabout. Marissa Diaz stated that Ms. Clark of Accurate Bookkeeping was contacted, and was very pleased with the proposed project. She stated that Aven’s Furniture was contacted by the Redevelopment Agency, and it was agreed that there would not be additional right-of-way to that northwest corner. Commissioner Hawse inquired if the aesthetics would be changed by the northwest corner where the asphalt portion is lifted. Marissa Diaz stated that street trees have been proposed for that area. Commissioner Hawse then inquired concerning the electric outlets at the southwest corner being utilized by the public that could possibly create a transient environment; she expressed the outlet should be used for the City only when needed, i.e. lighting and holidays. Marissa Diaz stated that there would not be any outlets on the southwest corner. Commissioner Hawse also expressed that she has observed in low foot-traffic areas there is a potential for loitering, and would not like to see that occur; she commented that she has noticed law

enforcement patrols in other areas. Marissa Diaz responded that the comments would be taken into consideration.

Commissioner Bowers inquired for clarity concerning the areas of widening of the bike paths, and reduction of speed through the intersections; Marissa Diaz stated that the intersections are on Lancaster Boulevard between Sierra Highway and 10<sup>th</sup> Street West, and the reduction of speed is the result of traffic flow, not the speed limit.

Vice Chair Bartholet asked for the time frame of the construction. Marissa Diaz responded that the time frame would be 118 contract days. Vice Chair Bartholet inquired if the construction time would be impacted by traffic flow, i.e. during peak hours in the day, or evening hours. Marissa Diaz responded the construction would not be restricted to outside of the City's working hours, and traffic control would be involved; the intersection would not have be shut down.

### 3. CITY WAYFINDING PROGRAM (SIGNAGE)

**Presenter: Luis Garibay, Sr. Projects Coordinator**

Luis Garibay informed that each year more than 200,000 people visit Lancaster from other areas; for sports tournaments at the Lancaster National Soccer Center or The Big 8 Baseball diamonds at Lancaster City Park, special events at the Downtown LPAC, or the beautiful poppies. One of the challenges visitors face when in the area is being able to navigate and experience the City of Lancaster without disruption. After a game, show, or any type of entertainment, we are trying to make it easier for visitors to shop, dine, and support our businesses in Lancaster.

Luis Garibay noted there are three levels of signs that have been proposed:

- **Level 1 (Freeway Signage)** – To better identify the City of Lancaster to motorists passing through the Antelope Valley Freeway, a large vertical pylon sign bearing the City name and logo is being recommended at a number of locations
- **Level 2 (Freeway Off-ramp Signage)** – Once the visitor exits the freeway, Level 2 signage is provided on the off-ramp, letting the visitor know which way to turn to reach a specific major destination. These signs will typically indicate major districts, rather than individual businesses
- **Level 3 (Local Major Streets Signage)** – Signs will be provided along the major streets leading from each off-ramp, alerting visitors to upcoming turns they will need to make to find their chosen destination

Luis Garibay stated the first phase of the project will focus on the central core of the City; this is one part of a city-wide comprehensive program. The City is presently in process of developing construction plans for the various signs. Once the plans are completed, there will be a bidding process. Areas not included in the first phase are major freeway off-ramps; Public Works Department was able to secure a MTA grant to help with major improvements. He concluded that staff would be looking to obtain and place welcome signs in key areas in Lancaster; other signs with be implemented as funding is received for the project.

Commissioner Mercy inquired about the process of bidding applications for local companies. Luis Garibay stated that the Public Works Department has a list of local businesses and as projects become available the companies are notified according to their expertise.

Commissioner Wiley inquired if the signs would be on both sides of the freeway. Luis Garibay affirmed.

Commissioner Mercy asked if the musical road would have a directional sign; Luis Garibay affirmed, and informed that the musical road was utilized in one of the scenes in a television movie.

Commissioner Wiley asked how many areas would be listed on each sign. Luis Garibay stated that the Planning and Public Works Departments met to identify the key areas for the signage, and research with consultants concerning wayfinding and suggestions to limit the number of areas per sign to four.

Commissioner Hawse inquired if there was any discussion about placing signage for health care facilities. Luis Garibay affirmed, and gave an example (at Avenue K and 15<sup>th</sup> Street West) of placing signage for a medical district. Commissioner Hawse inquired about the process for naming of different areas, i.e. South Commerce. Luis Garibay stated that the names would change and the process is being sought out of identifying the area to name appropriately; the Commission was invited to make suggestions for names of areas. Commissioner Hawse asked if there was a deadline to when the names would be finalized for signage. Luis Garibay stated it would be soon because there is funding for this fiscal year for the first phase of the program. Commissioner Hawse commented that the Western Hotel and Cedar Street Theatre are notable, and asked if there would be signage for those in particular. Luis Garibay stated there is approximately 35 different businesses Downtown and signage for Downtown attractions would be generic, i.e., museums, restaurants, and retail.

Kelvin Tainatongo informed that wayfinding signage specific to Downtown are in the process of being fabricated; for example, a pedestrian-oriented sign has been placed Downtown at Fern Avenue and The BLVD; more signs are being prepared, including the Western Hotel and other features on The BLVD that will match the theme of Downtown.

Commissioner Carlson inquired how many wayfinding signs were presently in Lancaster. Luis Garibay stated there were not many; less than 10. The signs are in areas such as the Soccer Center because of the volume of people that visit; a few signs exist that direct visitors to Downtown Lancaster. Commissioner Carlson asked if out of the approximate 25 signs the City would be replacing the signs with new signage. Luis Garibay stated the signage by the freeway is maintained by Caltrans, and are mandatory. Luis Garibay concluded that the City is trying to modify and improve their signage, and will work with Caltrans concerning multiple signages, i.e. having one sign instead of three with the information.

Vice Chairman Bartholet inquired if there was a proposed life span of the signs; were the signs going to be renovated, painted, or maintained. Luis Garibay responded that drawings are proposed and presented with recommendations of materials for the signs; the longer the life span, the more costly. Vice Chairman Bartholet asked what the discussions of the subsequent phases for the signs were concerning. Luis Garibay stated mainly future funding as to what may or may not be available; any other projects that may be going forth to be incorporated with the use of signage.

Vice Chairman Bartholet commented that Lancaster is expanding east and west, and inquired if those phases will be included. Luis Garibay affirmed, and added that the General Plan maps out the entire City of Lancaster; if there were unlimited funding, signs would be placed everywhere. He stated signage would be placed at key corridors, for example, there was a West Coast Baptist Convention consisting of approximately 5,000 youth attending and there was signage directing them from the freeway toward the Soccer Center area; this is part of the first phase.

#### **4. BUS STOP FURNITURE – COLOR CHANGE**

**Presenter: Mario Enriquez and Michelle Cantrell, City Engineering Division**

Mario Enriquez informed that the bus stop improvement project was funded through the Antelope Valley Transit Authority, and a decision was made to change the current color standard for all bus stop furniture in the City's jurisdiction. New installations will have the new standard color, and existing furniture will be repainted with the new standard color. (Samples were distributed to Commissioners by Michelle Cantrell.) The current standard color of Lancaster bus stops is Sky Blue, RAL 5015. Based upon criteria including availability, cost, harmony, and the color's complementary value with Lancaster's typical street background, three color options have been preselected for final consideration.

##### **BUS STOP FURNITURE – COLOR OPTIONS:**

- White Aluminum, RAL 9006
- Traffic Grey, RAL 7043
- Black Grey, RAL 7021

Mario Enriquez informed Commission that staff was partial to the traffic grey.

Commissioner Mercy inquired as to the color retention to heat for each sample. Mario Enriquez stated there was no data for heat retention, but the sheet metal is perforated for ventilation. He opined that black grey and traffic grey would probably retain heat more because of the darker color.

Commissioner Hawse inquired if the people surveyed for the color options were bus riders. Mario Enriquez stated that the color is being able to identify the bus stops, especially for visitors in the area. Commissioner Hawse expressed that she favored the traffic grey although she would like to know which color retains more heat.

Commissioner Wiley expressed that he favored the current blue furniture at the bus stops. He commented that this is a sunny area and the blue is very noticeable.

Vice Chairman Bartholet inquired if there had been information on longevity of the paint. Mario Enriquez responded that a poly coat is known for longevity and durability.

Commissioner Bowers inquired as to how many existing bus stop locations there are in the City of Lancaster that would need to be repainted, and when the furniture at these locations would be initially installed and painted. Mario Enriquez responded that in 2009, there were 240 trash cans,

140 benches, and 35 shelters installed. Commissioner Bowers asked if the goal was to paint all of the existing furniture at the bus stops. Mario Enriquez affirmed.

Commissioner Carlson inquired if staff was 100% set on changing the color. Mario Enriquez affirmed. Commissioner Carlson stated she favored traffic grey; she opined the white aluminum appears like it would attract heat, and she would be afraid to sit on the black during the summer. Commissioner Bowers also agreed for traffic grey.

Vice Chairman Bartholet expressed words of thanks to the presenters for their time and professionalism.

### **PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR – NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m., to the Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 2, 2013, at 5:00 p.m., in the Lancaster City Hall Council Chambers.

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APRIL BARTLETT, Chairperson  
Lancaster Architectural and Design Commission

ATTEST:

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CHUEN NG, Associate Planner  
City of Lancaster