



Agenda Item # _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Neil Miller, Public Works Director
Steven J. Didier, Senior Management Analyst

DATE: February 15, 2005

SUBJECT: Status Report of the City Council's 2004-2005 Work Plan Item Regarding the Sepulveda Corridor Phase II Improvements

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council accept staff's presentation of the Sepulveda Corridor Improvement Phase 2 project and provide direction.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

At this time the project is not funded. Staff initially anticipated beginning construction in FY 2007 utilizing a combination of grant funds from the State of California (\$800,000 in FY07) and Gas Tax revenue (\$200,000 in FY08). However, with the current budget conditions at the State level, staff believes that the grant funding portion will not be available to support this project. Alternative funding sources will be explored depending upon direction from City Council.

Funding for Sepulveda Utility Undergrounding

In 1968 the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted a regulation to encourage the undergrounding of utilities. This regulation is known as Rule 20. Under Rule 20, subsection A, cities are allotted funds representing their proportional amount of overhead services in relation to the utility's total system. These funds are set aside through utility providers for cities to use for undergrounding utilities. Sepulveda Boulevard utility undergrounding qualifies for Rule 20 A funding. Sufficient funds are available in the City's Rule 20 A reserve fund to support undergrounding along Sepulveda Boulevard.

BACKGROUND:

As requested in the City Council's Work Plan for 2004-2005, staff has prepared the update of Sepulveda Boulevard Improvements. Unless otherwise directed, staff proposes to continue searching for grant funding sources to complete Phase 2 of the project. In the mean time, it appears that utility undergrounding will be occurring along this segment of Sepulveda Boulevard.

On October 7, 1997, the City Council introduced Ordinance No. 1972, which adopted the Sepulveda Boulevard Development Guidelines and Zoning Regulations. The Guidelines are

intended to encourage certain desirable elements to be included within development projects on the corridor. They are intended to be used as a supplement to the City Zoning Code requirements during Use Permit and other discretionary project reviews.

On November 4, 1997, the City Council approved the Sepulveda Corridor Improvements Master Plan and preparations for Phase 1 of construction. These improvements targeted the public right-of-way to improve along the Sepulveda Corridor. Portions of the project were subsequently awarded to Tapuz Enterprises and Pima Corporation. Phase 1 improvements included entryway signs at Rosecrans and Artesia, new street signs at major intersections, median landscaping and paving treatment of the medians, and a flag and banner program (Exhibit A).

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this project is to implement aesthetic improvements that will promote economic development through retention of existing businesses and attract new businesses along Sepulveda Boulevard. Phase 2 improvement plans approved by City Council include stamped concrete crosswalks at major intersections, obelisks, and traffic signal bases (Exhibit B). Keystone corner bollards, landscaped intersection corners, painted traffic signal poles, and standardized news racks were presented but not approved by City Council. However, news rack improvements are currently a priority of City Council's 2004-2005 Work Plan. News racks will be standardized citywide over the next six months, including the Sepulveda Corridor pending receipt of an encroachment permit from Caltrans.

Sepulveda Boulevard Utility Undergrounding

Undergrounding of utilities has taken place at some locations along Sepulveda Boulevard (400 block between Keats and Longfellow and between Marine and Rosecrans). Southern California Edison (SCE) has plans to underground utilities along the remaining length of Sepulveda. SCE is currently waiting for Caltrans permitting and expects to start the project in spring or summer of 2005. This work will require at least 18 months to complete. Staff recommends that undergrounding improvements be completed prior to Phase 2 improvements.

CONCLUSION:

Unless otherwise directed, staff proposes to continue searching for grant funding sources to complete Phase 2 of the project. In the mean time, it appears that utility undergrounding will be occurring along this segment of Sepulveda Boulevard.

- Attachments: Exhibit A: Sepulveda Corridor Phase 1 Improvements
- Exhibit B: Sepulveda Corridor Phase 2 Improvements

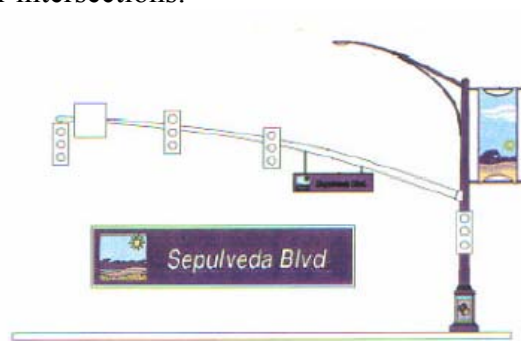
Exhibit A

Sepulveda Corridor Phase 1 Improvements

1. Entryway signs in the medians at Rosecrans and Artesia.



2. New street signs at major intersections.



3. Median landscaping and paving treatment of the medians.



4. Flag and banner program.

Located on traffic signal and light poles

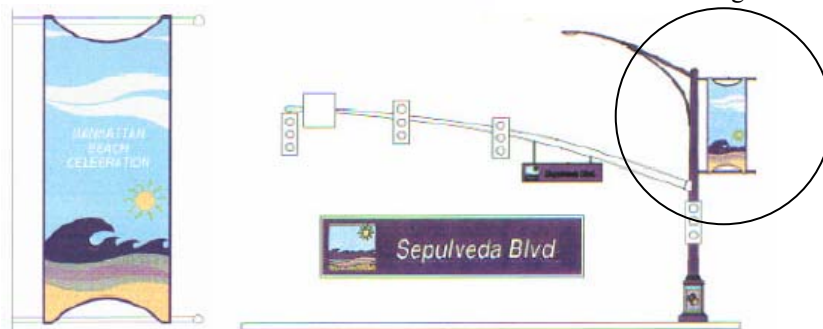
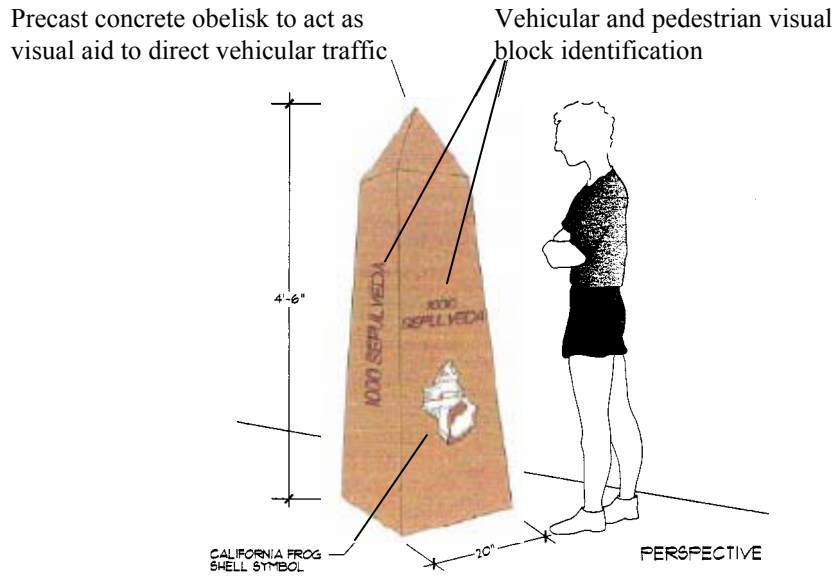
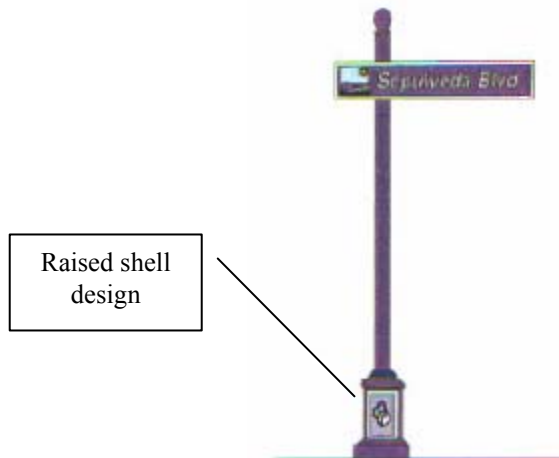


Exhibit B
Sepulveda Corridor Phase 2 Improvements
Approved by Council

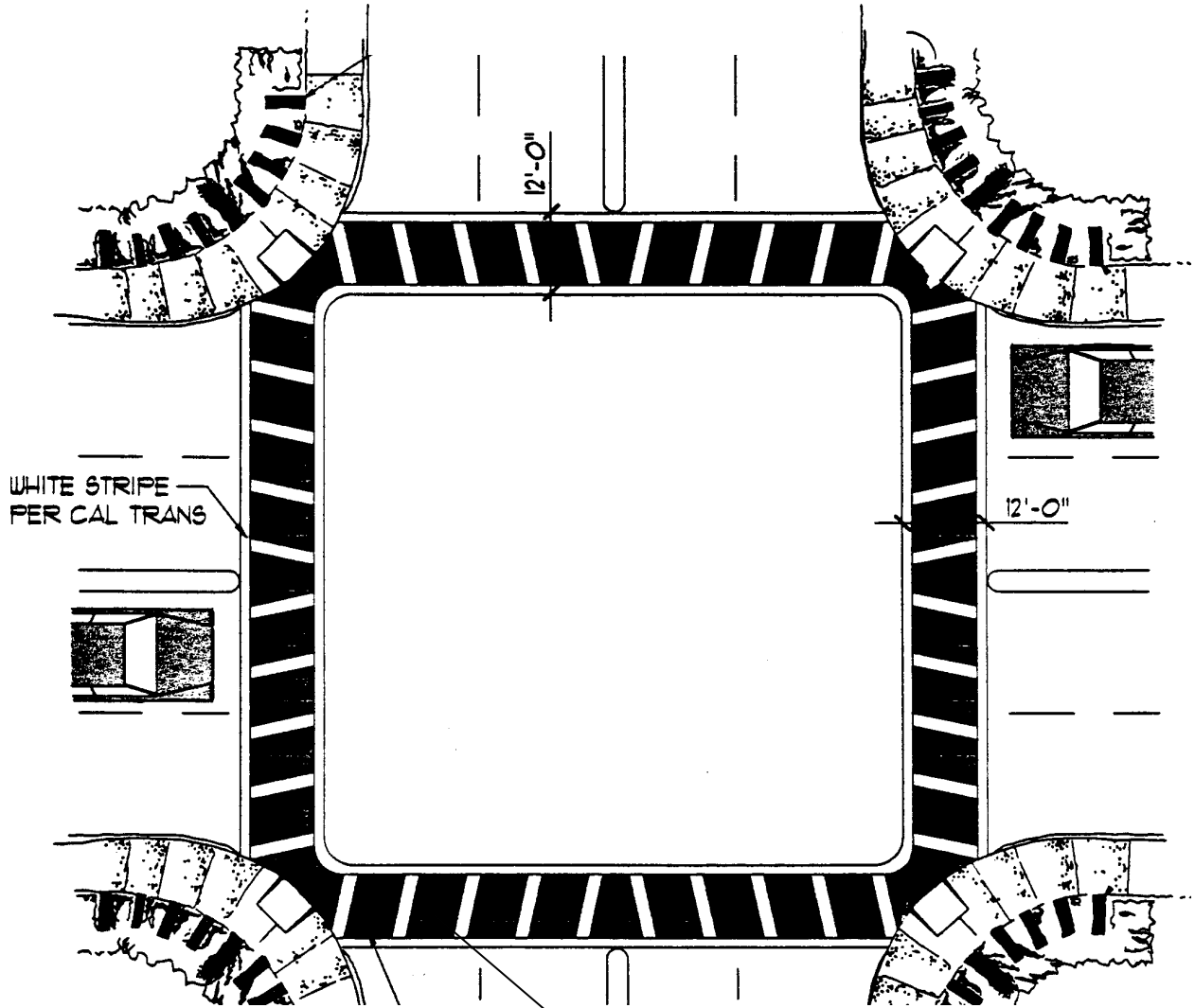
1. Obelisks at intersections.



2. Traffic signal bases and street signs.



3. Stamped concrete crosswalks.



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