

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report



Meeting: April 11, 2024

From: Department of Public Works

Subject: Pedestrian Pathway from the Upper Beach and Village Parking Lot to Monterey Avenue

Recommended Action: Approve the plans, specifications, and construction budget of \$370,000 for a Pedestrian Pathway from the Upper Beach and Village Parking Lot to Monterey Avenue; approve the Coastal Development Permit; and authorize the Department of Public Works to advertise for construction bids.

Background: On March 25, 2021, the City Council approved an agreement with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) for the study and construction of a pedestrian pathway (Pathway Project) to connect the Upper Beach and Village Parking Lot (Parking Lot) and Monterey Avenue. The project has been designed to separate vehicles and pedestrians entering and exiting the parking lot, providing a safe pathway for pedestrians. On February 10, 2022, staff presented a schematic plan of the pathway configuration to the City Council, and on September 14, 2023, the Council directed staff to develop the final design for the Pathway Project.

Discussion: The final pathway design is adjacent to the existing driveway leading to the parking lot, and consists of a 5-foot sidewalk with a retaining structure reaching a maximum height of 3 feet, ADA-compliant curb ramps at the southwest and northwest corners of the Monterey Avenue and Park Avenue intersection, and striping to facilitate bike and pedestrian crossings. A pull-out has been created on the south side of the street, just east of the intersection, designed with curbs and stripes to function as a drop-off/pick-up zone.

In compliance with the SCCRTC funding, Public Works staff presented this project to the SCCRTC Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee for review and comment in December 2023. The Committee requested the ladder striping of all legs of the crosswalk intersection at Park Avenue and Monterey Avenue, which has been incorporated into the project plans.

The construction of the pathway will necessitate the removal of one 40-inch mature oak tree and three other small non-oak trees. These trees have already been replanted in a 3:1 ratio in the Lower Beach and Village Parking Lot, including 7 oak trees.

Coastal Development Permit

The project requires approval of a Coastal Development Permit (CDP). The City Council is the approval authority on CDP applications for Public Works projects that require no other discretionary permit approvals from the City other than funding approval. The required findings for a CDP can be made for this application and are listed below.

Coastal Development Permit Findings

A. The project is consistent with the LCP land use plan, and the LCP implementation program.

The Pathway Project conforms to the City's certified Local Coastal Plan (LCP) land use plan and the LCP implementation program as it will enhance public access from the parking lot to the Monterey Avenue/Park Avenue intersection and sidewalks.

B. The project maintains or enhances public views.

The Pathway Project will maintain public views.

C. The project maintains or enhances vegetation, natural habitats and natural resources.

The Pathway Project creates improved coastal access from the parking lot to the Monterey Avenue sidewalk. The driveway access from the Monterey Avenue/Park Avenue intersection is steep and cannot accommodate an ADA-accessible sidewalk due to the slope. The construction of the pathway will necessitate the removal of one 40-inch mature oak tree and three other small non-oak trees. These trees have already been replanted in a 3:1 ratio in the Lower Beach and Village Parking Lot, including seven oak trees. The improvements will enhance vegetation in the Lower Parking Lot while maintaining the existing natural habitat in close proximity to the Pathway Project.

D. The project maintains or enhances low-cost public recreational access, including to the beach and ocean.

The project involves improved pedestrian circulation and will enhance safety connections to low-impact low-cost public recreational access to Monterey Bay.

E. The project maintains or enhances opportunities for visitors.

The project involves improved pedestrian and bicycle circulation and will enhance opportunities for visitors through safer multimodal transportation options.

F. The project maintains or enhances coastal resources.

The project involves pedestrian improvements in the Upper Beach and Village Parking Lot and will not negatively impact coastal resources.

G. The project, including its design, location, size, and operating characteristics, is consistent with all applicable design plans and/or area plans incorporated into the LCP.

The proposed pedestrian improvements comply are consistent with the LCP.

H. The project is consistent with the LCP goal of encouraging appropriate coastal development and land uses, including coastal priority development and land uses (i.e., visitor-serving development and public access and recreation).

The project involves pedestrian improvements from the Parking Lot to the Park Avenue/Monterey Avenue intersections and sidewalks which is considered development within the LCP. The proposed project is consistent with the LCP by providing safe routes to the coast with a new pathway.

CEQA: The proposed improvements are Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This finding is based on Section 15301(c), which covers the operation, repair, or minor alteration of existing public facilities which results in negligible or no expansion of use, and Section 15303 which covers the construction of new small facilities (curb, gutter, and sidewalk).

Fiscal Impact: There is \$270,000 budgeted in FY23-24 for the construction of this project, which includes the \$250,000 SCCRTC grant. An additional \$100,000 in Transportation Development Act funds, specifically designated for pedestrian and bicycle projects also administered by the SCCRTC, is available; resulting in a construction budget of \$370,000.

Attachments:

1. Project Plans

Report Prepared By: Jessica Kahn, Public Works Director;

Reviewed By: Katie Herlihy, Community Development Director; Julia Gautho, City Clerk; Jim Malberg, Finance Director, Samantha Zutler, City Attorney

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager