



## **CITY OF ORLAND STAFF REPORT**

### **MEETING DATE: December 3, 2024**

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

**FROM:** Pete Carr, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** **Streetscapes Phase 1 Project Options** (Discussion/Direction/Action)

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#### **BACKGROUND:**

The City in 2017/2018 developed and adopted the Walker Street -- Streetscape Master Plan, envisioning improvements to Walker Street between Second and Sixth Streets in pedestrian facilities, drainage, and aesthetics. Funding for implementation of this multi-million dollar project is only just beginning to materialize in a Caltrans-driven SR32 improvement project slated for construction 2025-27. The City applied for several federal and state grants to fund the street furnishings portion of the project, without success.

City Council in its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) budget set aside \$200,000 for Phase 1 with the understanding that the City could add pedestrian-friendly improvements on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets now (Phase 1) as a model for the master plan improvements to be constructed later (Phase 2) as part of the upcoming Caltrans SR32 reconstruction projects. The phases would have consistent streetlamps and street furnishings, resulting in a more attractive and enjoyable pedestrian shopping experience. Phase 2 would also include landscaping (trees/planters) on Walker Street, whereas 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> already have these features.

Staff met with several interested business owners over the past year and explored options consistent with the master plan and the current budget. These concepts, based on the Master Plan pages 29-41, were presented and refined at the 9/12/23 EDC meeting and recommended to Council 9/19/23. There were many potential options available for decorative street features.

Council on 9/19/23 discussed the initial proposal concepts, heard input from the public, and provided direction to City Staff to bring this back for action in two weeks to enable additional public input. The City posted photographic examples of proposed lampposts on Facebook 9/30/23. Council also asked Staff to look into engaging the OHS welding shop for fabrication of custom features.

At its 10/3/23 meeting, Council heard additional public input and directed Staff to proceed. The concept included paired lampposts to allow for festooning of patio-type lights across the street, with the possible addition of mini-light strands lengthwise over the sidewalks. OHS agreed to take on fabrication of the lampposts, while Staff ordered LED lamps, benches, trash receptacles and bulk reel light strands from commercial vendors.

#### **ANALYSIS:**

The City obtained a permit from PG&E, engaged a local electrician, and talked with business owners about placement of the street furnishings. As lampposts became available from OHS, the City crew had a Chico

firm powdercoat the lampposts while the crew prepared sidewalk footings and hexagonal pedestals. Three parking bumpers have been added where risk of contact with parking vehicles is evident.

Two considerations are presented now, seeking Council direction:

First, there exists an opportunity to color or otherwise beautify the 30" high raw concrete pedestals. The Orland Arts Commission considered colored stucco and other potential surface treatments. Their recommendation is to paint or stain the pedestals an earthy brown. Staff concurs and suggests acid-wash then stain with sealer for optimal aesthetic appeal and minimal maintenance requirement.

Second, a concern more recently identified is that there is less height clearance for the patio lights than anticipated. 14.5' is minimum, and it appears the current configuration will result in 13-14' at the center of the road. Staff feels there are several options if the patio lighting is to remain a critical part of the project:

- A. Extend the height of the lampposts an additional 12-18" utilizing a telescoping steel base; or
- B. Add taller posts in the center tree pits, connected by a cable over which the cross-street patio lights could arch upward toward the center, achieving desired height clearance. This would be on option for 4<sup>th</sup> Street only, not 5<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Repurpose these lampposts to Walker Street, and replace with new taller posts; or
- D. Seek property owner permission to string the patio lights from building to building.

Arts Commission chair Rae Turnbull recommends keeping the lamppost height as-is and foregoing the cross-street patio lights in favor of strings of lights lengthwise over the sidewalks.

Staff can illustrate options with examples from other towns. The budget for the project is in order with allowance for reasonable enhancements to the project.

Attachments:

1. Planned lamppost images
2. Sample stained-brown concrete images
3. Photographic examples from other cities
4. Streetscapes Phase 1 project budget update

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Direct Staff re: pedestals and lighting.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATION:**

Depends on directions, presumably within current budget allowance.