



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE

**ADOPTED**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

67 July 12, 2022

CELIA ZAVALA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT  
TRANSPORTATION CORE SERVICE AREA  
DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO ADOPT, ADVERTISE, AND AWARD  
VERMONT AVENUE PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS  
PROJECT ID NO. RDC0016303  
IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES AND  
IN THE UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES OF ATHENS AND WESTMONT  
(SUPERVISORAL DISTRICT 2)  
(3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Public Works is seeking Board approval to carry out accelerated delivery of the Vermont Avenue Pedestrian Improvements Project in the City of Los Angeles and the unincorporated communities of Athens and Westmont.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Find that the proposed project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated in this Board letter and in the record of the project.
2. Approve the project and delegate authority to the Director of Public Works or his designee to adopt the plans and specifications and advertise for bids at an estimated construction contract cost between \$4,500,000 and \$6,700,000 for the Vermont Avenue Pedestrian Improvements Project.

3. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Works or his designee to instruct the Executive Officer of the Board to advertise for bids in accordance with the instruction sheet for Publishing Legal Advertisement with the Notice Inviting Bids when ready to advertise this project.
4. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Works or his designee to determine whether the bid of the apparent responsible contractor with the lowest apparent responsive bid is, in fact, responsive and, if not responsive, to determine which apparent responsible contractor submitted the lowest responsive bid.
5. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Works or his designee to award and execute a construction contract for the Vermont Avenue Pedestrian Improvements Project with the responsible contractor with the lowest responsive bid less than, within, or exceeding the estimated cost range by no more than 15 percent if additional and appropriate funds have been identified.
6. Delegate to the Director of Public Works or his designee the following authority in connection with this contract: (1) extend the date and time for the receipt of bids consistent with the requirements of State Public Contract Code, Section 4104.5; (2) allow substitution of subcontractors and relief of bidders upon demonstration of the grounds set forth in State Public Contract Code, Sections 4100 et seq. and 5100 et seq., respectively; (3) approve and execute change orders within the same monetary limits delegated to the Director of Public Works or his designee under Section 2.18.050 of the Los Angeles County Code; (4) accept the project upon its final completion; and (5) release retention money withheld consistent with the requirements of State Public Contract Code, Sections 7107 and 9203.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the recommended actions will find that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and allow Public Works to accelerate construction to comply with grant deadlines for the Vermont Avenue Pedestrian Improvements Project, which will improve landscape and streetscape improvements along Vermont Avenue from 108th Street to 122nd Street in the City of Los Angeles and the unincorporated communities of Athens and Westmont (see Enclosure).

The project includes installing permeable concrete pavers, nonpermeable interlocking concrete pavers at bus stops, decorative crosswalks, wayfinding signage, planting of drought tolerant trees with fully automated irrigation systems, flow-through filtration planters, and pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements. The project will improve access for pedestrians and transit users to Metro Green Line Vermont/Athens Station.

Design of the project is anticipated to be completed no later than August 2022, and the project will be advertised immediately thereafter. It is anticipated the work will start in December 2022 and be completed in August 2024.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

These recommendations support the County Strategic Plan: Strategy III.3, Pursue Operational Effectiveness, Fiscal Responsibility, and Accountability, Objective III.3.2, Manage and Maximize County Assets by supporting ongoing efforts to manage and improve public infrastructure assets.

## **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

The estimated construction contract cost to complete this project is in the range of \$4,500,000 to \$6,700,000. The total project is estimated to be \$8,400,000. In addition to the construction contract, the total project cost includes the preparation of plans and specifications, consultant services, survey, environmental clearance, right-of-way and utility clearances, inspection, contract administration, change order contingency, and other County services.

A portion of the project is within the City of Los Angeles. The City will finance its jurisdictional share of the project cost, estimated to be \$84,000, under the Street Services Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the City, which was approved by the Board on January 30, 2001.

The Vermont Green Line intersection improvement portion of the project will be administered utilizing Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) ExpressLanes Net Toll Revenue Reinvestment grant funds in the amount of \$1,626,000 through the Round 2 of the Metro ExpressLanes Net Toll Revenue Reinvestment Grant Program. The Vermont Avenue streetscape improvements portion of the project will be administered utilizing Metro Local Transportation grant funds through the 2013 Metro Call for projects in the amount of \$765,000. The remaining costs of the intersection improvements in the amount of \$2,140,000, and the streetscape improvements in the amount of \$3,785,000 are funded with the Second Supervisorial District's Transportation Improvement Program Proposition C Local Return and Measure R Local Return funds, respectively.

Funding for this project is included in the Second Supervisorial District's Transportation Improvement Program in the Proposition C Local Return Fund (CN9 - Capital Assets Infrastructure and Services and Supplies) and Measure R Local Return Fund (CN5 - Capital Assets-Infrastructure and Services and Supplies) Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budgets.

The annual maintenance cost of the streetscaping improvements is estimated to be \$25,000. Commencing in Fiscal Year 2024-25, funding for the ongoing maintenance cost will be made available and be requested through the annual budget process.

## **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

This project will be advertised in accordance with Section 20392 of the State Public Contract Code.

The contract award will comply with applicable Federal and State requirements and Board policies and mandates. The contract documents will require the contractor to comply with these same requirements, policies, and mandates. The construction contract will be in the form previously reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

As required by Board Policy No. 5.140, information such as defaulted contracts with the County, complaints filed with the Contractors State License Board, labor violations, and debarment actions will be considered before a contract is awarded.

Documents related to award of this contract will be available at Los Angeles County Public Works, Project Management Division III, 900 South Fremont Avenue, 8th Floor, Alhambra, CA 91803.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The proposed project is exempt from CEQA. The project to provide for minor alteration of existing public or private structures, addition of safety protection devices, new gardening or landscaping, modification of existing traffic signal system, and reconstruction of curbs and sidewalks is within a class of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment, which meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15301 (c) and (f) and 15304 (b) of State CEQA Guidelines and Class 1 (i) and (x) Subsections 4, 7, and 14 and Class 4 (c) of the County's Environmental Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G. In addition, based on the proposed project records, it will comply with all applicable regulations, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, damage to scenic highways, listing on hazardous waste site lists compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, or indications that it may cause a substantial adverse change to the significance of a historical resource that would make the exemptions inapplicable.

## **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

In accordance with the Board's consolidated Local and Targeted Worker Hire Policy, the contract documents will require that at least 30 percent of the total California craft worker hours for construction of the project be performed by Local Residents and at least 10 percent be performed by Targeted Workers facing employment barriers.

To increase contractor awareness of Public Works' program to contract work out to the private sector, this project will be listed on both the County's "Doing Business with the County" and "Do Business with Public Works" websites for open bids:

<http://www.lacounty.gov/business/doing-business-with-the-county>

<http://pw.lacounty.gov/general/contracts/opportunities>

Also, the contract solicitation will be advertised through web-based and social media platforms, including Twitter.

In addition, in order to increase opportunities for small businesses, Public Works will be coordinating with the Office of Small Business at the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs to maximize outreach, as well as offering preferences to Local Small Business Enterprises, Social Enterprises, and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises in compliance with Los Angeles County Code, Chapters 2.204, 2.205, and 2.211.

## **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The Vermont Avenue Pedestrian Improvements Project will have a positive impact by reducing pedestrian exposure to vehicles, improve driver compliance with crossings, better control of vehicle speeds, improve safety for people walking, and bicycling to the Vermont Green Line Station thereby increasing transit ridership.

**CONCLUSION**

Please return an adopted copy of this letter to Public Works, Project Management Division III.

Respectfully submitted,



MARK PESTRELLA, PE

Director

MP:RLG:ja

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Office (Chia-Ann Yen)  
County Counsel  
Executive Office  
Internal Services Department (Countywide  
Contract Compliance)

# VERMONT AVENUE PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

Location Map



Data contained in this map is produced in whole or part from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works' digital database.