



STAFF REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE: Regular Meeting of September 24, 2019

TO: Members of the City Council

SUBMITTED BY: David Biggs, City Manager
Mike Roberts, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding with Hercules Bayfront for Expanded Use of an Existing Public Access Easement to Facilitate Interim Bus Service to the Waterfront.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt a Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Hercules Bayfront for Expanded Use of an Existing Public Access Easement to Facilitate Interim Bus Service to the Waterfront.

FISCAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATION: Under the terms of the proposed MOU, the City will undertake the annual weed abatement on the two encumbered Bayfront Boulevard parcels owned by Hercules Bayfront, an entity controlled by David Cury. The cost to make the roadway and alley improvements permitted under the terms of the MOU have been included in the FY 2019/20 budget using Measure J funds.

DISCUSSION: The City's Path to Transit project—which included extending John Muir Parkway (JMP) and constructing the Bayfront Bridge to connect JMP with Bayfront Boulevard—was completed in early 2017 and was funded from a variety of Federal, State, and local grant sources. The Path to Transit grant funding required independent utility, meaning that bus service must be implemented shortly after project completion to introduce transit services to the Waterfront. Staff has explored a variety of ways to facilitate interim bus service, which will operate until the variety of future components of the Hercules Regional Intermodal Transportation Center (RITC), including the planned Transit Plaza, can be completed.

Because of physical constraints on Railroad Avenue and Sycamore Avenue, buses must use John Muir Parkway to both enter and depart the Waterfront District. While other options were explored, the City's best and most timely option available for establishing bus service to the Waterfront District is to utilize the existing alley on the block bounded by Railroad Avenue, Bayfront Boulevard, and Ernest Street. Buses will travel down John Muir Parkway to an interim bus stop at the future RITC site, then continue to Railroad Avenue and circulate back down the alley to Ernest Street and back out Bayfront Boulevard. The City has completed a conceptual design for this option which will also allow for a safe interim pedestrian connection between the two existing Bay Trail segments. Recently,

staff approved a contract to take the conceptual design of these improvements to the construction and bid-ready point.

Concurrently with the conceptual design, City staff worked with David Cury, who owns the two blocks along Bayfront Boulevard with the connecting alley, on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will allow for the expanded use of the existing public access easement that encumbers the alleys. This MOU will allow the City to make improvements necessary for interim bus services, including modifying the driveway aprons and some curb returns and enhancing the alley paved surfaces. The MOU also provides both parties a notification process for terminating the expanded use. As noted above, the City will provide the annual weed abatement for the impacted parcels and will assume increased alley maintenance costs (if any) caused by bus use.

Completion of the interim improvements and the introduction of interim bus service demonstrates the City's good-faith efforts to meet the requirements of the grants which funded the Path to Transit project. Establishing Waterfront bus service also will be of assistance as the City seeks new grant sources to complete the next phases of the RITC and to get passenger trains to stop in Hercules. Plus, the interim improvements will allow WestCAT to expand bus services to the Waterfront and nearby neighborhoods, and will create a safer, more pedestrian-friendly connection between the two existing Bay Trail segments.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Memorandum of Understanding

<i>Financial Impact</i>			
Description:			
Funding Source:			
Budget Recap:			
Total Estimated cost:	\$	New Revenue:	\$
Amount Budgeted:	\$	Lost Revenue:	\$
New funding required:	\$	New Personnel:	\$
Council Policy Change: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			