



CITY OF POMONA

COUNCIL REPORT

September 9, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted By: Rene Guerrero, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: AESTHETICS OF GOLD LINE RETAINING AND SOUNDS WALLS

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file this report recognizing that the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority has changed the bridge and sound wall aesthetics previously approved by Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority (GLCA) has planned new aesthetic treatments for the Phase 2B Cities, including Pomona. The updated aesthetics are intended to create an improved appearance and branding throughout the Phase 2B segment and eliminate differentiated designs by each city. Please see Attachment No.s 1a, 1b, 1c (retaining walls) and Attachment No. 2 (sound walls) for the planned GLCA aesthetic updates. Attachment No. 3 shows the wall aesthetics previously requested by City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT: There will be no impact to the General Fund due to these updates. However, if the City desires the previous V-Notch aesthetic design for retaining and sound walls (as requested by City Council on December 18, 2017), it may be considered a betterment which would thereby become a City cost (a cost differential/estimate is not available at this time) which would require transportation infrastructure funding.

PREVIOUS RELATED ACTION: On September 25, 2017, the City Council authorized the Office of the City Attorney to send a letter to GLCA Board of Directors and appear at the September 27th Board of Directors meeting to express the City's continued concerns with the project, regarding continued environmental impact issues communicated to GLCA staff regarding Amendment #4 to the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR #4) for the Phase 2B passing through Pomona.

On September 27, 2017, the Office of the City Attorney sent such letter and appeared at the GLCA Board Meeting to express the City's position and preserve the City's rights to seek judicial assistance. The GLCA approved Phase 2B, as proposed, without any amendment to address the City's issues.

On October 2, 2017, City Council authorized the Office of the City Attorney to file a Writ of Mandate lawsuit to compel the GLCA to properly analyze and mitigate impacts in the City of Pomona from the changes and unmitigated impacts of the Phase 2B alignment; and directed staff to advise GLCA that an additional grade separation project does not appear feasible to the City of Pomona at this location (Garey Avenue near North Pomona Station).

On October 16, 2017, the City Council directed staff to attend GLCA Board Meeting and other meetings to make the GLCA aware of issues; recommend additional opportunities for more public engagement related to the GLCA project; adopt a cooperative posture with the GLCA; consider environmental impacts; and receive and file initial potential betterments list.

On October 27, 2017, the Office of the City Attorney filed a Writ of Mandate to overturn the decision by GLCA to adopt the changes to Phase 2B due to GLCA failing to adequately and accurately evaluate the environmental impacts associated with such changes to the project in SEIR #4. Under California law, changes in a project require renewed and updated analysis of environmental impacts associated with such changes.

On November 20, 2017, the City Council authorized the continued efforts of Staff to resolve the City's concerns with Metro's proposed Supportive Transit Parking Program (STPP) Master Plan which would reduce parking at rail line stations, including stations along Gold Line Phase 2B.

On December 18, 2017, City Council Accepted the Claremont Design with Integration of Arcadia Design Features, requested use of the V-Notch aesthetic design for retaining and sound walls, and designated bridge abutments for public art.

On February 5, 2018, the City Council directed staff to provide the Gold Line with the choice of Alternative #3 (Arcadia & Claremont / Combination) for the two bridges/structures in the City.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: None with this action, as such discussion is only for the aesthetic updates. GLCA is required to evaluate the environmental impacts (i.e. traffic, noise, etc.) of any changes to the project, at the time it approves additional changes to the project.

DISCUSSION: The GLCA would like to create an aesthetic for this project that will provide some recognizable continuity throughout all of Phase 2B. Since each Phase 2B City has preferences regarding the aesthetics for the bridge(s)/flyover in their community, the retaining and sound walls aesthetic updates are planned to produce a 'branding' effect for this project. Gold Line staff has informed City staff that other Phase 2B (Glendora to Pomona) Cities are satisfied with the updated aesthetics.

Recessed areas of the updated aesthetic panels are approximately 1-1/2 inches deep, which is comparable to the depth of the prior V-Notch aesthetic design. The hexagonal flower pattern in the updated retaining walls aesthetic does have the same basic shape as the Pomona wheel (similar to the tile shape in the Civic Center Plaza), and this geometric flower design does compliment the geometrics of the combination bridge design. Also, the circles and overlapping ovals pattern of the updated sound walls resembles the prior V-notch pattern with circles representing the oranges and the overlapping ovals creating leaf shapes.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES & GOALS: This item supports the 2019-2020 City Council Priority 2: Economic Development, Goal 1: Market the City to attract and retain business and investment, & Step 1: Focus on physical project implementation to create economic activity.

ALTERNATIVE(S):

1. *Request GLCA provide an estimate of the betterment cost for keeping the V-Notch aesthetic design for retaining and sound walls, or some other design.*

Prepared by:

Matt Pilarz
Acting City Engineer

ATTACHMENT(S):

Attachment No.'s - 1a, 1b, and 1c – Updated Gold Line Retaining Walls Aesthetic Design
Attachment No. 2 – Updated Gold Line Sound Wall Aesthetic Design
Attachment No. 3 – Prior City Requested V-Notch Aesthetic Design