



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Metropolitan Planning • Public Transportation & Operations • Engineering & Construction

Metropolitan Planning Organization of Washoe County, Nevada

May 20, 2019

AGENDA ITEM 6.5

TO: Regional Transportation Commission

FROM: Judy L. Tortelli, P.E.
Engineer II



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SUBJECT: Arlington Avenue Bridges at Truckee River Project Update

RECOMMENDATION

Receive a report on the Arlington Avenue Bridges Project.

SUMMARY

The Arlington Avenue Bridges Project is in Reno, Nevada at the Truckee River and the limits run along Arlington Avenue between Island Avenue and W. First Street. Arlington Avenue has two bridges that connect to Wingfield Park, both are included as part of the Project. Funding was allocated for the Arlington Avenue Bridges in the FY 2019 Program of Projects to initiate a preliminary study to determine permitting and National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) requirements for the bridge replacement. Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. (Jacobs) was awarded a Professional Services Agreement in November 2018 to perform the preliminary analysis.

The scope of work includes completion of a Feasibility Study and Conceptual Alternatives Analysis to encompass agency/stakeholder coordination, conceptual plan development, preliminary design, and public outreach to determine environmental, community and economic constraints associated with rehabilitating and/or reconstructing the bridges. The intent is to use information, analysis, and products developed to initiate the environmental review process for the Project per NEPA requirements for rehabilitation and/or replacement of the bridges.

A previous study was completed in February 2009 entitled "TRAction Visioning Project." This study identified and analyzed alternatives for six downtown bridges including the Arlington Avenue Bridges. At the time of the completion of the Visioning process, it was determined that replacement structures in downtown should provide 100-year plus 2-feet of freeboard for flood protection. The Arlington Avenue Bridges Project scope of work builds upon the previous study focusing solely on the Arlington Avenue Bridges to identify design and environmental constraints,

develop bridge and aesthetic concepts, and review current flood protection requirements. General tasks identified include conceptual bridge type and alternatives analysis, aesthetic quality development, public outreach, data collection, development of constraints including confirmation of flood protection level, cost analysis, environmental support, and investigation of potential project funding sources.

Following a defined process will reduce the range of possible bridge type and aesthetic concepts through engineering analysis and conducting stakeholder and public outreach. The process for Virginia Street Bridge followed the requirements of a 2010 Amended Programmatic Agreement between the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO). Since there is no such mandated process for Arlington, a simplified version of the Virginia Street process will be followed to reduce the range of concepts.

The bridges, roadway and park are owned by the City of Reno, a major stakeholder in the project. From an environmental standpoint, several agencies are included as key stakeholders. Other stakeholders include the surrounding property owners and various downtown organizations directly affected by the Project. A Regional Stakeholder list will be established to capture feedback from those who may have an interest in the Project. The primary focus is to get overall general input from this group. A Stakeholder Working Group will be established that is a subset of the Regional Stakeholders. This smaller group includes major permitting agencies, groups and organizations that represent a larger component of downtown, as well as immediate adjacent property owners who are likely to be interested in the Project. The Stakeholder Working Group's role is to assist in development of design standards and criteria. This group will review conceptual alternatives and provide recommendations for reducing the number of alternatives. The alternatives analysis is a fluid process encompassing continuous engineering analysis, evaluation of criteria, impact assessment and public input.

The overall Project process approach includes the following steps and anticipated timeframes:

- Identify Parameters
- Stake Holder Working Group
- Develop Conceptual Alternatives
- Stakeholder Working Group Input
- Revise/Reduce Alternatives
- Technical Advisory Committee Input - Interagency Coordination
 - Permitting and Regulatory Requirements
- Revise/Reduce Alternatives
- Stakeholder Working Group Input
- Identify Preferred Concept or Feasible Alternatives
- Public Meeting Input (Spring 2020)
- Feasibility Report (Summer 2020)

The primary deliverable for the Project is the completion of a Feasibility Report documenting the existing constraints, concepts analyzed, and public outreach component. The goal is to have bridge type and aesthetic package, with funding options and environmental constraints identified to carry forward into design. Information contained in the Feasibility Report will feed into the design and NEPA process, which will be a separate future contract. Proper documentation of decisions made throughout the process is extremely important so these decisions can be carried forward and built upon as the Project moves forward. Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) represent a collaborative and integrated approach to accomplish this process. PEL considers environmental, community, and economic goals early in the transportation planning process, and uses the information, analysis, and products developed during planning to inform the environmental review process.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for the feasibility study was approved with the FY 2019 Program of Projects and is included in the current approved RTC budget. There is no additional cost in connection with this agenda item.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS BY BOARD

November 16, 2018	Approved Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. to provide design services for the Arlington Avenue Bridges at Truckee River Project.
June 15, 2018	Approved the FY 2019 Program of Projects

ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) RECOMMENDATION

There are no advisory committee recommendations pertaining to this agenda item.