



City Council Staff Report

Date: February 20, 2013

OLD BUSINESS

Subject: APPROVAL OF PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATE (PS&E) AND AUTHORIZATION TO BID FOR BICYCLE LANES, CITY PROJECT 12-08 & MODIFY NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PLAN CHANGING THE DESIGNATION ON VIA ESCUELA FROM CLASS II TO CLASS III

From: David H. Ready, City Manager

Initiated by: Public Works and Engineering Department

SUMMARY

The City of Palm Springs adopted a Non-Motorized Transportation plan which included bicycle routes planned throughout the City. This project includes bicycle lanes to be constructed at Baristo Road and Avenida Caballeros, and designate Via Escuela as a Class III bicycle route using shared lane markings. The construction documents (Plans, Specifications and Estimate) are completed and, in accordance with Section 7.03.040 of the Procurement and Contracting Code the City Council is required to approve and adopt plans, specifications and working details, and authorize the bid request for all public projects in excess of \$100,000. Approval of this project will allow staff to proceed with this public project, with an estimated cost of \$283,000.

On February 6th the City Council postponed the approval of the PS&E and Authorization to Bid for the Project and brought up the following items for staff to analyze:

- The use of shared lane markings.
- The concern of proposed bicycle lane streets being redone with slurry seal, overlay, or reconstruction after the bicycle lane is reconstructed.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) Approve the plans, specifications, and working details for Bicycle Lanes, City Project 12-08, and authorize staff to advertise for bids.

ITEM NO. 4A

- 2) Modify the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan changing the designation on Via Escuela from Class II to Class III.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

With the approval of the City of Palm Springs Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, many streets were identified for bicycle routes, which included proposed bicycle lanes throughout the City. On September 19, 2012, staff provided the City Council a detailed list of all proposed locations for Class II bicycle lanes and categorized them according to priorities. With the limited amount of funding available, the City Council provided direction to staff to include the following locations for bid.

- Baristo Road – from Avenida Caballeros to El Cielo Road
- Avenida Caballeros – from Vista Chino Road to San Rafael
- Via Escuela – from Indian Canyon Drive to Sunrise Way

Because of the limited width available on Via Escuela, City Council asked staff to consider shared bicycle lanes (Class III) on Via Escuela lieu of designated bicycle lanes (Class II) in order to preserve parking. The use of shared lane markings, also known as “Sharrows”, was investigated by staff. Shared lane markings are used to assist cyclists to avoid the impact of open doors of a parked vehicle. Shared lane markings should not be placed on roadways that have a speed limit above 35 mph. They are typically used on narrow urban streets that have extensive on-street parking. Shared lane markings are used on Class III bicycle lanes. If used on Class II designated bicycle routes, the City and CVAG would have to adopt a change in the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan from a Class II designation to a class III designation. One of the criteria for on-street bike routes that Caltrans recommends is the removal or restriction of street parking in areas of critical width to provide improved safety. Therefore, with the use of Sharrows on Via Escuela in lieu of designated bicycle lanes, the costs savings for this location will be used to extend bicycle lanes at the following location:

- Avenida Caballeros – from Alejo Road to Tamarisk Road

Staff checks the paving list to make sure any bike lanes or routes painted are not on streets to be sealed or repaved within 2 years. Baristo Road from El Cielo to Sunrise is in good condition and it was overlaid in November 2008. Baristo Road from Sunrise to Caballeros needs work and will be scheduled for overlay or reconstruction this summer 2013. The bike lane will not be put in until after the State grant is approved in October. Avenida Caballeros was slurry sealed in 2010 and is in good condition. Via Escuela from Indian Canyon to Sunrise Way was slurry sealed in April/May 2010. The pavement is in good condition.

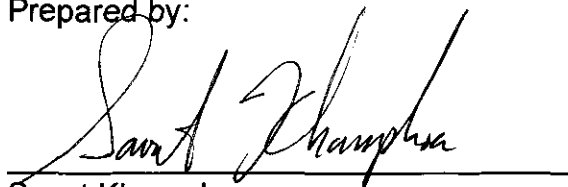
The plans and specifications prepared by staff are ready for City Council approval and subsequent advertisement for construction bids. Section 7.03.040 of the Procurement and Contracting Code requires that for public projects in excess of \$100,000 Council approve and adopt the plans, specifications and working details, and authorize staff to advertise for construction bids. The City Engineer's Estimate for this project is \$283,000. Approval of the recommended action will allow staff to proceed with bidding of this project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for this project is made available through the Sustainability accounts (138-1270-50000 [\$50,000] and 138-1270-58033 [\$50,000]) and potentially a grant in the amount of \$350,000 from the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP). The City had applied for this grant in January 2013. If awarded, funds will be available in the fall of 2013.

SUBMITTED:

Prepared by:



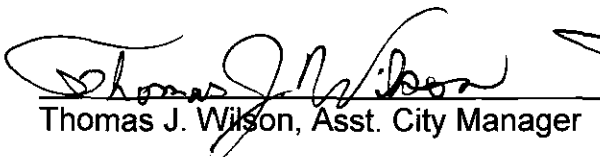
Savat Khamphou
Assistant Director of Public Works

Recommended by:

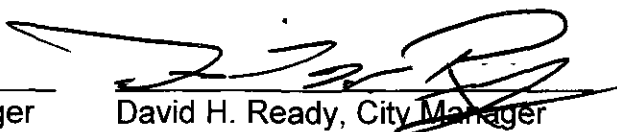


David J. Barakian
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Approved by:



Thomas J. Wilson, Asst. City Manager

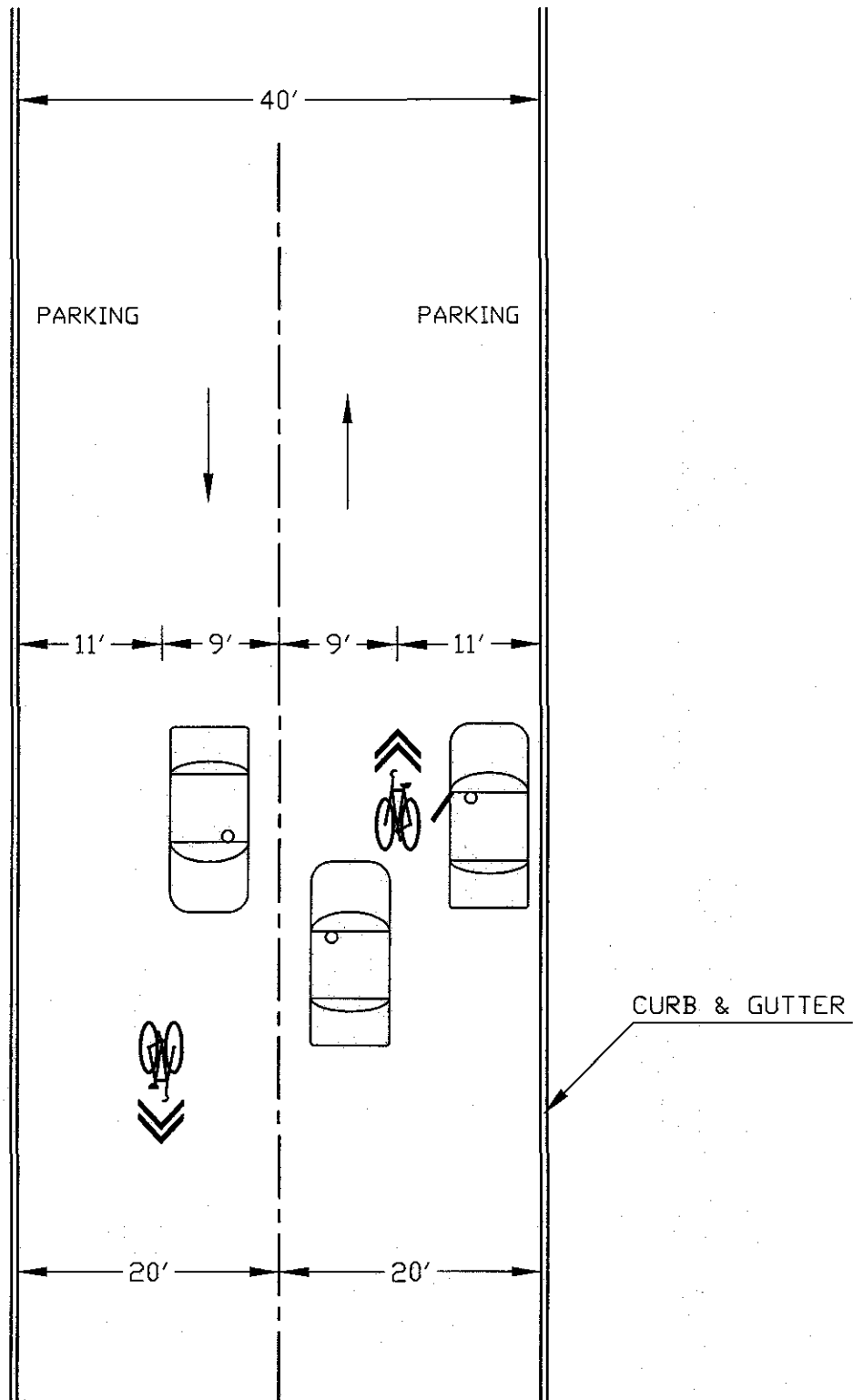


David H. Ready, City Manager

AERIAL MAP OF PARKED VEHICLES ON VIA ESCUELA



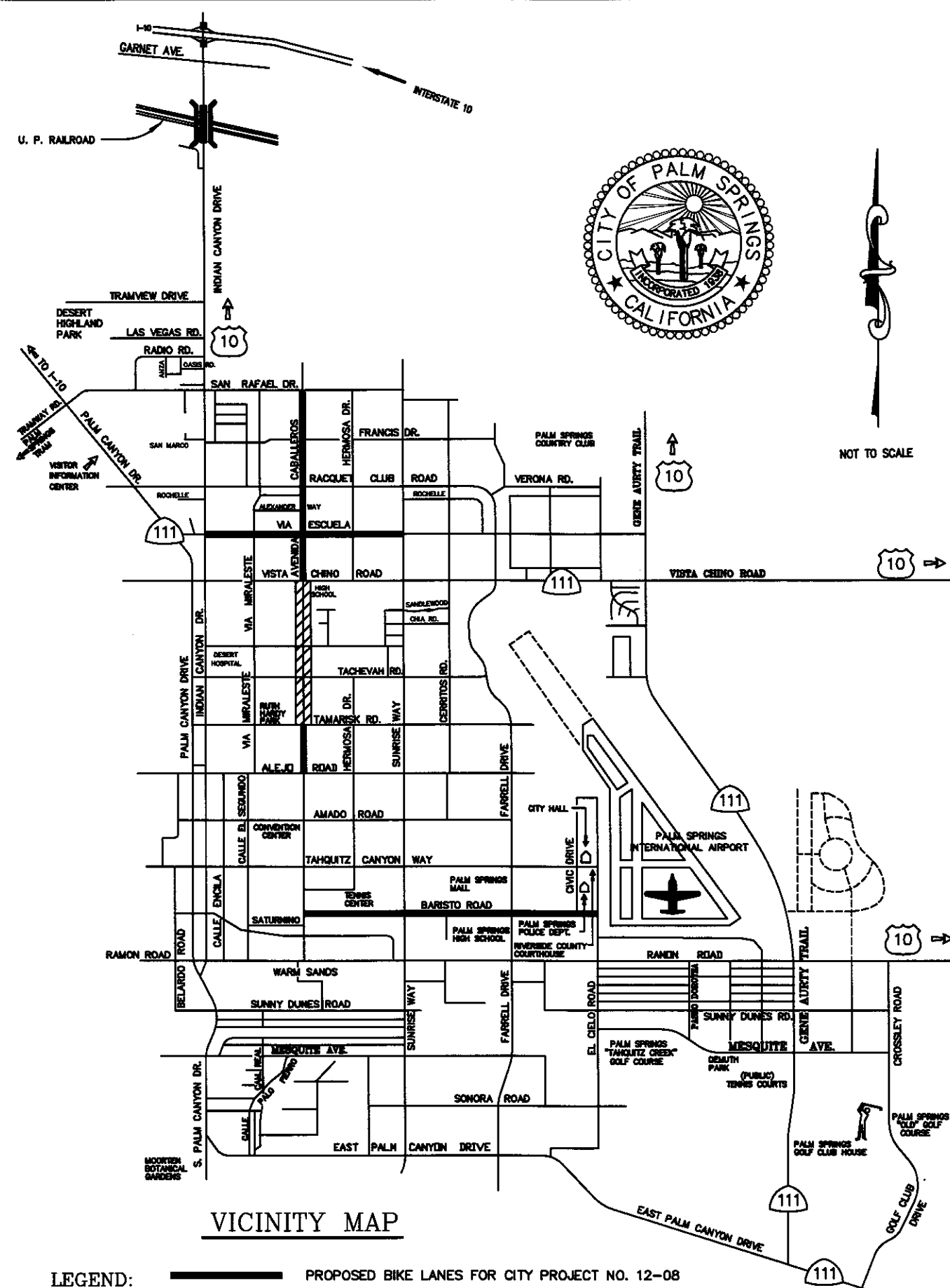
A total of 10 vehicles were counted parked on the 1 mile segment of Via Escuela from Indian Canyon to Sunrise Way. The segment above, between Hermosa Drive and Paseo De Anza, represents one tenth of a mile within the 1 mile segment, shows 6 parked vehicles.



VIA ESCUELA - SHARED LANE MARKINGS ("SHARROWS")

BICYCLE LANES - CLASS III

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA



VICINITY MAP

LEGEND:



PROPOSED BIKE LANES FOR CITY PROJECT NO. 12-08
 PROPOSED BIKE LANES INCLUDED ON FEDERAL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT CITY PROJECT NO. 08-10