

**CARSON CITY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**

Date Submitted: February 2, 2010

Meeting Date: February 10, 2010

To: Regional Transportation Commission

From: Tom Grundy, P.E. / Project Manager
Vern L. Krahn, Park Planner

Subject Title: Action to approve the conceptual landscape design and design theme “Carson City’s History in Motion” for three interchanges and three grade separations on Phase 1 (northern leg) of the Carson City Freeway.

Staff Summary: Staff is requesting review and approval on the proposed project’s design theme and conceptual landscape design concepts for Carson City’s Freeway Landscape Project. The project’s design concepts will enhance the northern freeway’s corridor with native/naturalized landscaping, drip irrigation systems, hardscape components, including large boulders, rock talus, visual features, and aesthetic enhancements.

Type of Action Requested: (check one)

- None – Information Only
- Formal Action/Motion

Recommended Commission Action: I move to approve the conceptual landscape design and design theme “Carson City’s History in Motion” for three interchanges and three grade separations on Phase 1 (northern leg) of the Carson City Freeway.

Explanation for Recommended Commission Action: Over the past four months, Carson City, Gardeners Reclaiming Our Waysides (GROW), Nevada Department of Transportation, and Winston and Associates consultant team have developed conceptual native/naturalized landscape and hardscape designs, including aesthetic enhancements for three interchanges and three grade separations on Phase 1 (northern leg) of the Carson City Freeway. The project’s design theme “Carson City’s History in Motion” was created to guide design decisions and convey the City’s history through motion and travel as a central element of the northern freeway. In addition, the freeway’s landscape design will adhere to NDOT’s U.S. 395 Landscape and Aesthetic Corridor Plan. These landscape and aesthetic improvements are being proposed at the North Carson Street, Arrowhead Drive, and College Parkway interchanges and at the Northgate Lane, Emerson Drive, and Northridge Drive/Carmine Street grade separations.

After an extensive public outreach campaign by City staff, the proposed concepts were presented to the public at an informational meeting held on Tuesday, January 19, 2010, in the Sierra Room and front lobby of the Carson City Community Center (851 East William Street) from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Also, a project overview presentation was provided by City staff and design consultant team at 6:30 p.m. in the Sierra Room and was broadcast on public access television. The public was given an opportunity at the meeting to ask questions and was encouraged to provide written comments before leaving or submit their comments later in writing to the City. The deadline for project comments was Tuesday, January 26, 2010.

Since the public informational meeting, the City's project management team, including representatives from GROW and NDOT, have directed the design consultant team to make changes to the project's design concepts based on verbal and written comments received during the meeting and on the project's construction budget limitations. It will be these modified design concepts City staff will be presenting at the Commission meeting.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Policy: N/A

Fiscal Impact: The future fiscal impact to the City will be with on-going landscape maintenance costs. City staff is currently working with the design consultant team to develop these preliminary costs and present them at this meeting.

Explanation of Impact: It is anticipated by City staff the Regional Transportation Commission will be funding the on-going project's landscape maintenance costs through Gas Tax revenues.

Funding Source: Carson City has received approximately \$2.2 million for the proposed improvements to the northern freeway corridor. \$1.7 million was secured through federal funding by the efforts of Senator Harry Reid and GROW. In addition, Carson City received \$500,000 through NDOT's Community Match Program. The design costs for the project are being funded by the Regional Transportation Commission.

Alternatives:

- 1) Reject the conceptual design for the freeway landscape project.
- 2) Request modifications to the conceptual design for the freeway landscape project.

Supporting Material: Public Outreach Campaign Memorandum and Materials
Project Overview Sheet
Plan graphics and sketches

Prepared By: Tom Grundy, P.E. / Project Manager
Vern L. Krahn, Park Planner

Commission Action Taken:

Motion: _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nay
2) _____ _____

_____ (Vote Recorded By)