



Department Source: Public Works
To: City Council
From: City Manager & Staff
Council Meeting Date: September 19, 2016
Re: Report - Bus Shelters Update

Executive Summary

The following report is provided as an informational update on the status of installing additional bus shelters for the COMO Connect fixed route bus system.

Discussion

Over the next six months, Transit will install 10 new bus shelters at various locations along the COMO Connect fixed route bus system. These locations, and their previously allocated funding sources and proposed shelter types are listed in the attached Table A. Detailed diagrams of each location are also attached.

Past Timeline

During the spring semester of 2014, student groups in the University of Missouri Architectural Studies, Sustainable Technologies class, developed proposed new designs for bus shelters for the COMO Connect Bus system. The resulting seven designs were presented to the public to vote on, and a presentation including the winning project was presented during the pre-council meeting held on July 21, 2014.

The bus shelters were to be 80% funded through previously awarded and expected future grants from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). However, these expected FTA grants have yet to be awarded, and staff does not have a timeline as to when the grants will be awarded.

Following interested parties meetings held in August of 2015, eighteen locations were presented at the October 19, 2015 public hearing and adopted by Council. These locations included thirteen locations to be funded by FTA grants and five to be funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds available in September 2016.

Three of these sites were developed in the winter of 2015/16 utilizing funds from previously awarded FTA grants. Shelters were relocated to these locations from sites no longer serviced by the bus system. Due to the lack of the other FTA grant awards, staff prioritized ten shelters as identified in Table A to be funded by local CIP funds and CDBG as listed in Table A.

Bus Shelter Types and Costs

The shelter designed by the Sustainable Technologies class, hereinafter called "New Design", were projected by the students to have a similar cost to prefabricated designs, hereinafter called "Conventional" (see attached bus shelter types). However, staff requested an independent cost estimate and found that the new design would cost \$5,500 more per



shelter than the student assessment. The estimated cost for the new design is \$13,500 and the conventional design is estimated to cost \$8,000. Additionally, the fabricator was unable to source the 50% recycled content recommendations from the student design. Lead time would also be significantly longer than procuring a conventional shelter.

Staff recommends proceeding with a mix of conventional and new design shelters (see Table A), as suggested by Council at the August 20, 2016 budget meeting. It will be possible to procure the conventional design more quickly and more cost effectively. The new design shelters would be targeted for more high traffic locations or where the aesthetic value of the design appears more appropriate. This proposal has been presented to both the Public Transit Advisory Commission and the Disabilities Commission. Both groups preferred that staff proceed with the most expedient method of installing shelters.

These designs and scope of work have been shared with the Purchasing division which will put both designs out for competitive bid in October.

Challenges

The criteria for choosing these locations were:

- Higher than average ridership based on Automatic Passenger Counter (APC) data
- Connection/transfer point designation and the number of routes that access the stop
- Accessibility and trip generating locations

Unfortunately, many of these locations require substantial upgrades to make them ADA accessible and pedestrian safe. For example, the locations on Conley Road required additional sidewalk, curb ramps and pedestrian signals. These types of improvements significantly increase the cost to install accessible shelters at many locations.

Future Shelters

While there are frequent requests for additional shelters throughout the system, staff recommends holding off on placing additional shelters, not already identified on the attached list, until after the COMO Bus Service evaluation project is completed in the spring of 2017. This project, conducted by Olsson Associates, as directed by Council, will establish detailed service guidelines for the system and recommend alternative routing. While it is relatively easy to move a shelter, it is cost prohibitive to develop site plans, obtain right of use and perform grading and pour concrete pads and sidewalks at locations that may no longer be on routes in the near future.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Unknown at this time.

Long-Term Impact: Unknown at this time.



Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Transportation, Secondary Impact: Community Facilities & Services, Tertiary Impact: Economic Development

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Social Equity, Tertiary Impact: Operational Excellence

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities

Legislative History

Date	Action
07/21/2014	Bus Shelter presentation at Pre-Council meeting
10/19/2015	Construction and installation of concrete pads and bus shelters at various locations throughout the city.

Suggested Council Action

This report is for information only.