CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date:	August 31, 2010
To:	Honorable Mayor & City Council
From:	Steve Zoet, Interim Director of Community Services
Subject:	Presentation by Gruen Associates Regarding Final Design of the Wilshire/Whittier Gateway Feature
Attachments:	Aerial and Elevation Views of the Site and Proposed Features

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INTRODUCTION

On January 12, 2010 Steve Smith from Gruen Associates presented three dimensional models in conceptual form to City Council of three sites that had been previously identified as priority locations for the installation of new gateway signage and related landscaping. The proposed Wilshire and Whittier location is one of the designated sites. City Council gave direction to proceed with this location due to the desired outcome of addressing traffic safety concerns at the site through design and construction and also because this site was the least costly and could serve as an effective "test" site for the implementation of the long-desired gateway enhancements.

DISCUSSION

City Council gave direction to staff to work with Gruen Associates in finalizing the construction drawings and documents for the Wilshire/Whittier site and to bring the design back to Council prior to bidding the project for purposes of reviewing the safety design features. Per that directive, representatives from Gruen Associates will be in attendance, along with City staff, to present the design improvements developed by the traffic consultant to improve vehicular access to and circulation through the adjacent Union 76 gas station and Wilshire Boulevard.

The design team at Gruen Associates utilized the services of KPFF Consulting Engineers for assistance in the design of the median features and to assure compliance with the industry standards for traffic circulation. Additionally, City Traffic Engineer Bijan Vaziri and other city staff were also engaged in the design process and their recommendations have been included in the design. Gruen has submitted their plans for the required plan check review by the appropriate city divisions and departments.

FISCAL IMPACT

Gruen and Associates, in consultation with a contractor, anticipate the construction and associated landscaping cost of the project to be approximately $410,000, plus any contingencies that would normally be applied to such a project. Sufficient funds have been approved within the current fiscal year CIP budget to cover the anticipated construction and contingency costs of the project. Additional monies have also been identified for purposes of the design and construction of additional gateway features and the necessary design work will be brought forth for City Council's consideration later this fiscal year. The other identified and previously approved locations include Wilshire and San Vicente; Olympic Boulevard adjacent to Beverly Hills High School and Santa Monica Boulevard and Doheny Drive. Direction will be sought by staff as to the next desired location for consideration.

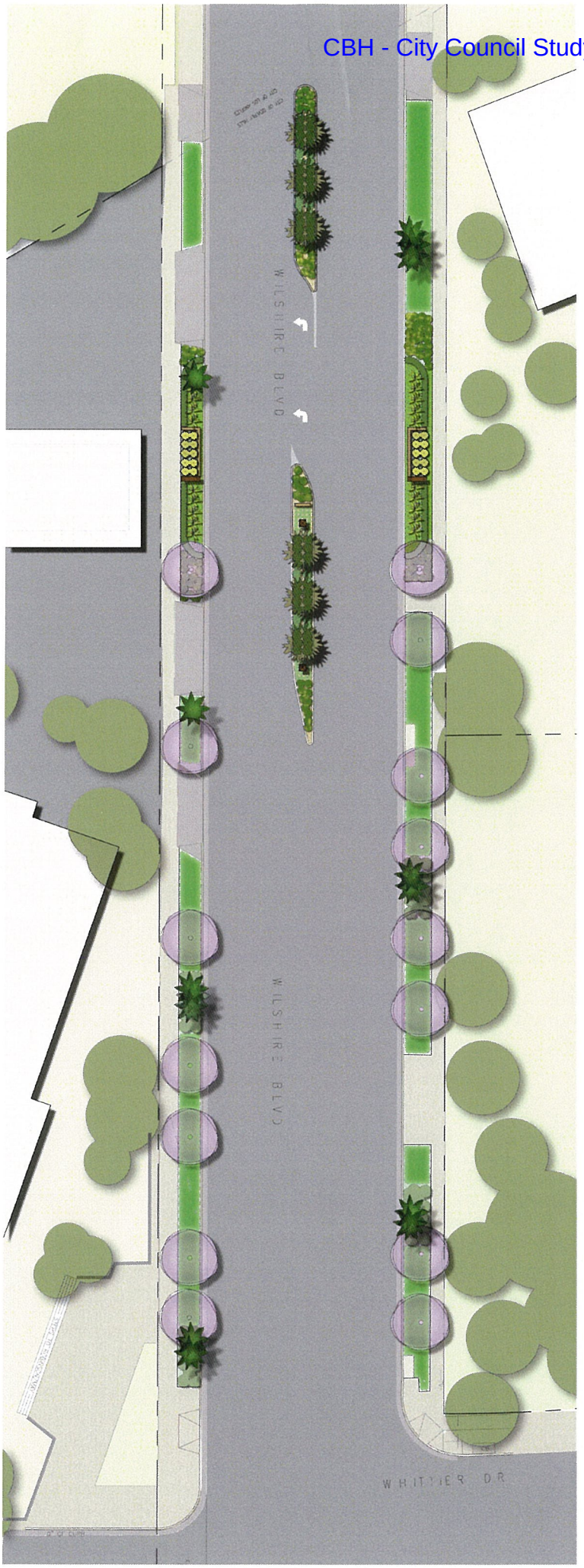
RECOMMENDATION

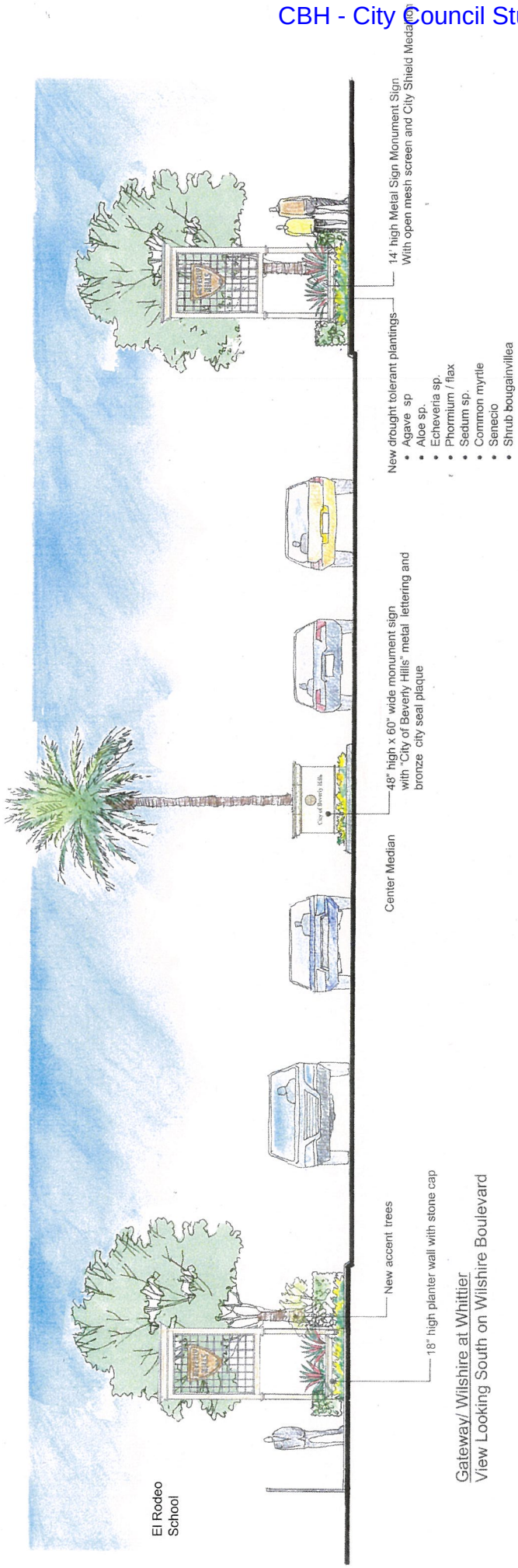
Staff seeks direction and approval from City Council to proceed with the public bid process for this project. The Recreation and Parks Commission reviewed the project for design and placement within a public right-of-way. The Fine Arts Commission also reviewed the design for aesthetics and the Traffic and Parking Commission reviewed for purposes of driver safety and related matters. None of the Commissions had concerns with the proposed design. Staff recommends Council approval to formally bid the project and to bring the matter back upon completion of that process for award of bid.

Scott Miller
Approved By

Steve Zoet
Approved By

Attachment 1


WILSHIRE BLVD
WILSHIRE BLVD
WHITTIER DR



Gateway/ Wilshire at Whittier
View Looking South on Wilshire Boulevard