



## STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** November 17, 2015  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council  
**From:** Steven Zoet, Director of Community Services  
**Subject:** Extension of Parkway Landscaping Improvements Associated  
with the Olympic/Spalding Gateway Project  
**Attachments:** 1. Photos of the Olympic Boulevard Parkway

---

### INTRODUCTION

The Olympic Boulevard gateway feature, which included the installation of monument signage and median and landscaping improvements, was recently completed just west of Spalding Drive. Staff intends to use excess project funding to complete landscaping of the northerly parkway. That portion of the parkway falls behind the property wall of Beverly Hills High school and has not been historically maintained by the District. Future maintenance of this area, like other gateway improvements, would be maintained by the City, through contract services, to assure acceptable standards and aesthetics.

Unless directed otherwise by City Council staff will proceed with these improvements as sufficient contingency funds remain available to do so.

### DISCUSSION

City Council previously approved a gateway improvement to be constructed at the south west entry into the City along Olympic Boulevard just west of Spalding Drive. This was part of a broader project that also included the construction of an additional gateway feature at the southeast entrance into the City located at San Vicente and Wilshire Boulevards. These projects were designed with the intent that they could be bid and constructed within the available project funding and the cost estimates provided by the firm that was retained by the City to provide design services.

The design of the Olympic Boulevard feature did not include improved landscaping within the northern parkway from the location where the monument signage was placed eastward to the intersection of Spalding Drive. As these two gateway improvement projects have been completed sufficient project funds remain available to cover the cost to landscape the remainder of the parkway. These improvements would include a continuation of drought tolerant landscaping similar to what was used in the new gateway feature and would serve as an extension of the improvement eastward to the natural breakpoint that exists at Spalding Drive. Doing so will provide the entry with a more uniform and finished appearance.

Meeting Date: November 17, 2015

With the completion of the Olympic/Spalding gateway it became evident that the north parkway along Olympic Boulevard adjacent to Beverly Hills High School property was not being maintained to the same standards as the rest of the Olympic Boulevard corridor. Property owners who front or abut City streets where parkways are present are responsible to water and maintain the parkway landscaping. Parkway landscaping typically consists of turf grass and street trees and must be maintained to City code and standards. This section of the parkway has not historically been maintained to the same standards as the rest of the Olympic corridor and, as a result, makes the condition of this unimproved section more noticeable and detracts from the new improvements that have been made.

Since gateway features are to welcome motorists and pedestrians into our community with a favorable impression, staff feels that it is important to landscape the remaining 188 feet of unimproved north parkway that exists at present. The enhanced landscaping would include the same or complementary drought tolerant plantings and drip irrigation that was done as a part of the recent gateway's design and construction.

It should be noted that an accident recently occurred where a driver, under the influence of alcohol, sideswiped the structural base of the sign (photos attached) in the northern parkway causing damage to the sign's base though most of it is aesthetic. Analysis will occur to assess the full extent of the damage and repairs will be made. The driver causing the damage was arrested for DUI. Although the driver does not have insurance the City will be seeking restitution from the driver through the District Attorney as a part of the prosecution or plea deal.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

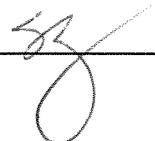
Staff has received an estimate of approximately \$63,000 to complete the north parkway to landscaping standards similar to that which have already been installed with the gateway improvements. With both gateway improvement projects complete approximately \$130,000 remains available through preapproved project contingency.

In anticipation of these gateway areas being constructed, the approved department budget included additional funds to maintain these improvements to desired standards upon their completion. The funding is sufficient to cover the nominal cost associated with maintaining this added portion. A large, existing ficus tree remains within this section of the parkway and would be removed and replaced with the new street tree, magnolia, as a part of this effort. This work would be performed and funded through the department's street tree removal and replacement account.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for informational purposes only. Unless directed to the contrary, staff will work with the contractor that constructed the gateway and will obtain the same unit pricing associated with the work that was recently performed.

Steve Zoet  
Approved By



# **Attachment 1**











KEEP  
→  
RIGHT  
↑



