

Council Meeting of  
July 17, 2012

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council  
City Hall  
Torrance, California

**Members of the Council:**

**SUBJECT: City Council Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee -  
Approve lighting and railing concept for Torrance Bridge maintenance  
and beautification plan. Expenditure: N/A**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of the City Council Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee that City Council approve the lighting and railing concepts for the maintenance and beautification of the Torrance Bridge plans (Project I-125).

**FUNDING**

Not Applicable

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

The City Council Committee on Citizen Development and Enrichment held meetings on May 8, 2012 and June 18, 2012 to discuss proposed lighting and railing improvements on the Historic Pacific Electric Bridge. During the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, several members of the Historical Society discussed their desire to see the bridge illuminated with colored changing lights and preserve the existing wooden railing.

Staff consulted with the preservation team on the project, which consists of Krakower and Associates, a Structural Engineering firm, Chattel Architects, a Historical Preservation consultant, and Preservation Arts, Masonry Restoration experts, and reconvened with the City Council Committee on Citizen Development and Enrichment on June 18, 2012. Below is a summary of the final meeting discussion and staff recommendation:

**Lighting:**

- Chattel Architects recommended traditional warm white architectural in-ground lighting with colored lens filters that may be used on special occasions. Their opinion was that a white lighting option is more compatible with the understated modern elegance of Irving Gill's design. Additionally, colored changing lights

would increase the total material cost by at least \$16,940.00, which would require seeking additional funding.

- The City Council Committee on Citizen Development and Enrichment voted 3-0 to concur with the staff recommendation to install the white in-ground LED lighting with the color lens option.

#### Wooden Railing:

- Staff proposed two options for guardrails on the bridge. The first was to remove and replace the wooden guardrails, as they are, in order to thoroughly repair the bridge façade and maintain a barrier from the edge. The cost to replace is currently \$20,618.00. The second option was to remove the wooden guardrails and replace with an ADA compliant railing within the bridge deck, leaving the façade as it was originally designed. The cost for this option is approximately \$50,680.00. It was mentioned that Chattel Architects would ideally like to see the wooden guardrails removed, as they are not character defining features of the bridge.
- The City Council Committee on Citizen Development and Enrichment made an alternate suggestion that staff research the possibility of removing the wooden guardrails from the outside of the bridge and have it installed on the inside face of curb.
- After consulting with Krakower and Associates, Structural Engineer, it was indicated that installing a wooden railing on the inside face of curb of the bridge deck would not be possible since the inside face of curb is buried in dirt, and slanted. Krakower and Associates also indicated that the wooden guardrail installation on the outside of the bridge can be easily reversed in the future.
- Staff recommends that the wooden guardrails be replaced as they exist, since pedestrians are not allowed on the deck at the present time, in order to complete the project as soon as possible, and without increased expenditures. Removing the wooden guardrails and installing an ADA compliant railing within the deck may be considered at a later phase when funding becomes available to convert the bridge to a pedestrian feature.

With the approval of this item, staff estimates advertising the bid on July 22 with an estimated construction start date of mid September, 2012. This will provide a completion date of mid to late December, 2012. The Historical Society had suggested a bridge opening of 2013 to coincide with the centennial of the actual bridge construction which occurred in 1913.

With Your Honorable Body's concurrence, staff will proceed with finalizing cost estimates and advertising the bid for the above mentioned construction.

Respectfully submitted,

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN  
DEVELOPMENT AND ENRICHMENT



Councilman Tom Brewer, Chair



Councilman Gene Barnett



Councilman Pat Furey