



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT: Economic Development

CM/ DCM/ ACM: Bryan Langley

DATE: March 1, 2018

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion and give staff direction regarding public art related to transportation projects, including at Brinker Road and other potential locations.

BACKGROUND

In October 2013, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) initiated construction of the 35Express Project. This project was a 28-mile capacity enhancement project adding additional travel lanes along Interstate Highway 35E from IH-635 in Dallas to US 380 in Denton. As part of the 35Express Project, TxDOT provided local governments the opportunity to add approved enhancements along the corridor and at certain intersections (bridges) to enhance aesthetics. Any enhanced aesthetics were the financial responsibility of the local agencies wishing to improve baseline improvements planned by TxDOT on the project. The North Texas Boulevard bridge was the only bridge structure in the City of Denton corridor to be reconstructed to the ultimate design as part of the 35Express Phase I project and approved for enhanced aesthetics.

In May 2014, the City of Denton contracted with Parsons Brinkerhoff (PB) to assist with the coordination and visualization of possible concepts for bridge enhancements as part of the 35Express project. PB was tasked with providing visualizations of the baseline aesthetics and providing up to six wall graphic alternative concepts. These concepts were considered by the Public Art Committee on July 9, 2014, (Exhibit 1) and a final concept was later approved by the Public Art Committee and approved by City Council in July 2015. Exhibit 2 is a photo of the final design as mounted on the southbound main lanes of 35E near North Texas Blvd.

- North Texas Blvd designs are aluminum medallions approximately 18 feet in diameter, powder coated and back lighted.
- UNT paid for similar medallions on opposing sides of the City funded medallions.

In 2017, preliminary consideration was given to the Brinker Road and I-35E underpass now under construction as a candidate for application of similar public art medallions. Components of this bridge are interim improvements and will need to be reconstructed as part of a future project anticipated within 10 years. The bridge abutments on the northbound and southbound frontage roads will not be at the ultimate location and will not accommodate the current 18-foot design due to height constraints. Staff is working with TxDOT to determine the feasibility of mounting a scaled down version, approximately 12 feet, on these abutments. Additionally, these locations will not have electricity, thus lighting may not be an option.

Other options under consideration are to mount a scaled down version on the abutment under the IH 35E main lanes (Brinker Road underpass).

In addition to the Brinker Road intersection, other locations to consider are the Loop 288 and 35E underpass and the southbound Dallas Drive on-ramp bridge abutments as these underpasses/intersections are part of the current construction project on 35E from Dallas Drive to Mayhill. Later this year, TxDOT will also begin work on widening US 377 from I-35 to FM 1830, this intersection may also be a candidate location for public art features.

In addition to TxDOT roadways, the Public Art Committee may wish to consider other options to introduce art to the traveling public. Opportunities may be available as part of capital improvement projects to include enhancements to medians, traffic signal control box enhancements and public right of way along identified corridors. Staff will facilitate a discussion on these options as part of this report.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT

If authorized for Brinker and/or Loop 288, design and build of medallions will need to be completed by November 2018 as the current project is scheduled to be complete in December 2018. Design options for other locations; US 377 and 35E, State School Road/Mayhill and 35E and the Mayhill Bridge over the A-train would need to be finalized by the end of the calendar year to be included in final designs for those projects.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

July 28, 2014 -Public Art Committee recommended medallion concept NT Blvd and I-35E.

August 5, 2014 - Council Work Session.

January 13, 2015 and July 10, 2015 - Council Work Session items.

July 21, 2015 - Council approved Ordinance 2015-212 committing funding aesthetics and pedestrian enhancements to the North Texas Boulevard and I-35E Bridge.

FISCAL INFORMATION

Design and construction will vary based on type of enhancement(s).

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 – Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2 – Conceptual Bridge Art/Medallion Designs 2014

Exhibit 3 – Denton Medallion – Mounted on 35E

Exhibit 4 – Presentation

Respectfully submitted:

Bryan Langley

Deputy City Manager

Prepared by:

Mark Nelson

Director of Transportation