

PALMETTO STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Revised Timeline

Two major projects are underway to improve the character and appearance of Palmetto Avenue from Clarendon north to Paloma. The first of these was the undergrounding of the overhead wires and the removal of the utility poles. This is nearly complete except for the poles and wires serving the streetlights. The streetlights, and the remaining poles and wires, will be removed in the second project, which is a comprehensive make-over of the entire streetscape.

The streetscape improvements are based on a design plan developed by the West Sharp Park Advisory Committee working with the Palmetto Avenue businesses and property owners. This redesign is expected to make Palmetto Avenue a more inviting and effective retail district that will help encourage more businesses to locate here, such as restaurants, shops and personal services, turning the street into a thriving “downtown.”

Utility Undergrounding

The utility undergrounding project commenced in early January of 2013. All of the distribution lines have already been placed beneath the street and sidewalks, and the services to the individual customers have been reconnected. The cost of the undergrounding project has been funded by money set aside by the utility companies for such projects. A few finishing touches remain, such as patching at some sidewalks where poles were removed, and all work is expected to be completed by the end of the Summer of 2016.

Streetscape Improvements

The streetscape improvement project is in the final stage of preparation, and the grant funding will allow the project to be bid-out during the Winter of 2016-17 and construction to begin when the winter rains cease in early 2017. The most important changes include new intersection corner bulbs that will slow traffic, make pedestrian crossings safer, and add decorative landscaping and accessories such as benches. The sidewalks will be made safer for everyone, including people with impaired mobility. New decorative streetlights, like those recently installed on the Pier, will be placed on both sides of the street with their wiring underground and with provisions for decorative banners. Dedicated bicycle lane striping will be provided, along with bicycle racks to allow for locking bikes while shopping or eating in the nearby shops and restaurants. Finally, the street will be repaved and re-striped.

A \$1,000,000.00 grant of Federal funds through the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s “One Bay Area Grant” program (OBAG), and \$375,000.00 from the State’s Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF), is leveraging local funding secured by a Certificate of Participation in the amount of \$1.5 Million. None of this diverts money from the City’s general operating budget.

For more information contact Lee Panza, the City’s Associate Civil Engineer, at 650-738-3771.