



Information Item

Date: May 5, 2010

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Lee E. Swain, Director of Public Works
Subject: Bus Shelter Redevelopment Final Design

Introduction

On [January 19, 2010](#), staff and Lorcan O’Herlihy Architects (LOHA) presented a Bus Shelter Schematic Design to the City Council. At that meeting, Council approved staff’s recommendation to present the design to the public for review and comment. The public process is complete and staff is proceeding with the preparation of construction documents based on the approved Schematic Design in order to advertise the project for bid in summer 2010. This report summarizes the outcome of the public process and outlines the next steps.

Background

LOHA began the design process with a series of public stakeholder interviews and meetings to gather feedback for the development of the new shelter design and amenities. From the interviews, the following items were most important to the stakeholders:

- Protection from the elements – sun, wind, and rain.
- Ease of viewing, to and from, approaching buses.
- Adequate seating.
- Ease of identifying stops from a distance.
- Transit information signage.
- Cityscape improvements.

Discussion

In January and February 2010, Big Blue Bus staff and LOHA presented the Schematic Design at five public meetings and attended 12 neighborhood group and business organization meetings, for a total of 17 meetings. These meetings included the Business Improvement Districts, neighborhood associations, business groups, transit riders, the Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and key boards and commissions such as the Commission for the Senior Community and Disabilities Commission. Feedback at these meetings were primarily positive with a few recurring concerns that included adequate protection from rain, clear signage, and real-time bus information.

The Schematic Design was also presented to the Architectural Review Board (ARB) on [February 17, 2010](#). The presentation focused on the following:

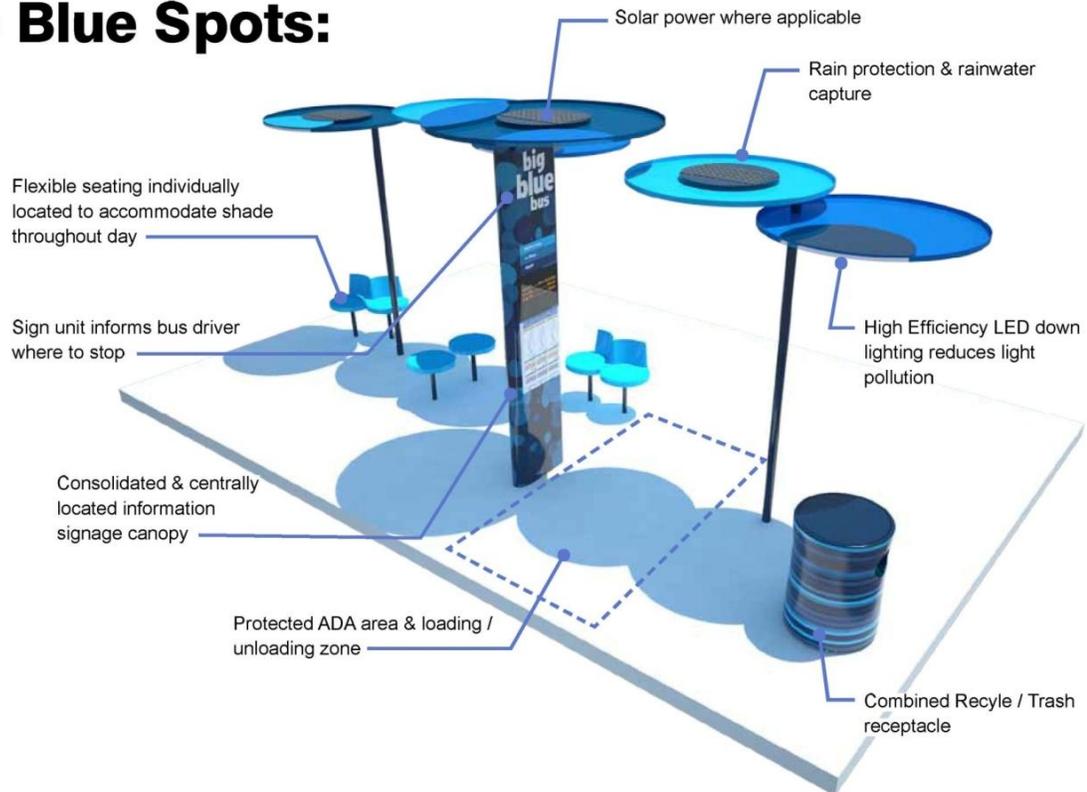
- Project timeline.
- How the design addressed clutter and confusion.
- How the design is reflective of the City of Santa Monica.
- Shade and shelter concerns.
- Analysis of local conditions to respond to our specific sites.
- Service ridership during peak hours.
- How to maximize ridership.

ARB had questions about the issue of rain water drippings and real-time schedule signage on high and medium volume stops. They considered the real-time signage on the column busy and suggested a color scheme and pattern that might be less busy. ARB also suggested the surfaces of the column be cushioned to protect against possible injury from skateboarders and pedestrians since it is a column on the public right-of-way. In addition, ARB commented that the proposed lighting is of high quality and very creative.

Bus Shelter Design

Shelter design has not changed from the [January 19, 2010](#), presentation to Council. The shelters comprise a kit of parts that can be expanded or reduced in response to each stop's particular ridership volume.

The Blue Spots:



The high volume stops will have more shelters, seating, and a trash and recycle receptacle. The transit information pole will have full real-time signage.



The medium volume stops will have fewer shelters and seating than the high volume stops, but have the same trash and recycle receptacle and transit information pole with full real-time signage.



The low volume stops will have only one shelter with a reduced information pole and one seating unit.

Next Steps

LOHA is proceeding with developing construction documents in preparation for obtaining a building permit and bidding for construction. As part of this process, LOHA will investigate design options that respond to ARB and the community remarks. Staff anticipates that a Request for Bids will be ready for distribution in summer 2010 and a construction contract will be brought to Council for authorization in fall 2010. The final design will be presented to Council at that time. Construction is expected to begin in winter 2010.

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