



Information Item

Date: September 2, 2014

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Martin Pastucha, Director of Public Works

Subject: Colorado Esplanade - Revision of the Gateway Triangle Design

Introduction

The Colorado Esplanade Project is a circulation infrastructure and streetscape project located between the future terminus of the regional Expo light rail line, Downtown, and the Santa Monica Pier. Part of this project consists of realigning Main Street to Second Street and creating an area called the Gateway Triangle, which was originally designed to be a decorative landscaping feature. The design for the Gateway Triangle Garden component of the Colorado Esplanade project has been revised since the [May 14, 2013](#) Council hearing to address comments raised by members of the public and Council. In response to the request for more open space, the design plan has been revised to retain some existing palm trees and restore turf grass and meadow grass to the central area of the triangle. The original concrete path design will remain but a simplified planting scheme will be constructed similar to the existing condition of the turf open space currently located along the southern edge of Colorado Avenue, at the intersection of Main Street and Colorado Avenue. The design of this open space will be achieved at no additional cost to the project.

Background

On [May 14, 2013](#), Council approved the final design for the full Colorado Esplanade, directed staff to prepare a bid package, and solicit bids for the reduced footprint core project. The core project includes the re-alignment of Second and Main Streets, critical infrastructure upgrades on Colorado Avenue between Ocean Avenue and 4th Street, and the connection between the future station, the Pier and the new Civic Center parks. An important part of this approved design was the Gateway Triangle, a

triangular landscaped area created by the realignment of Main Street to Second Street. The original design (presented at the May 14, 2013 Council meeting) is shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2.



Figure 1

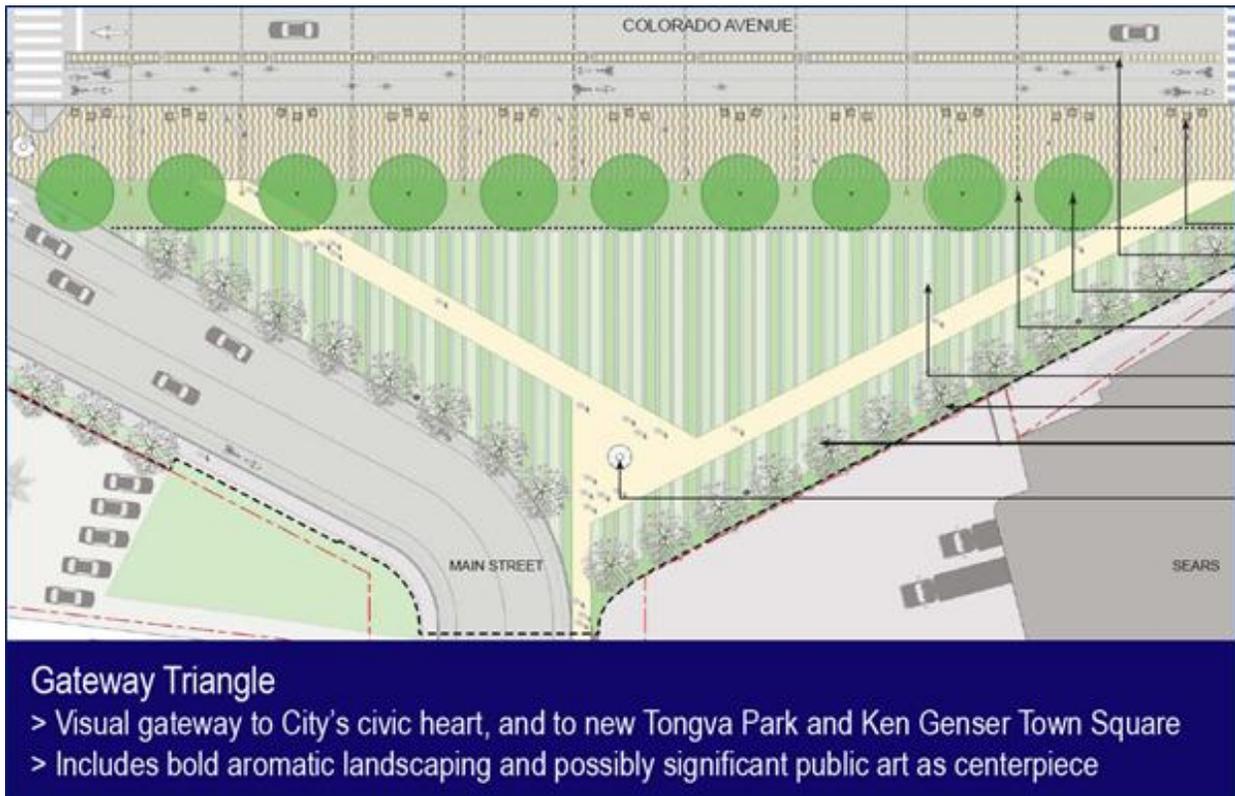


Figure 2

The Gateway Triangle was discussed at length at the May 14, 2013 Council meeting and ultimately Council directed staff to come up with a more usable open space for this area. The original design consisted of the planting of shrubs that made the area unusable to people who wish to walk or sit in the area. Council requested more of an open space that people can utilize as if it were a small park.

Discussion

Given Council's direction, staff and the design team developed a minimal design that keeps the walkway layout close to the original design, provides an open turf area, an open meadow grass area, keeps existing palm trees adjacent to Sears in place and provides for new meadow grass. This layout is included in the final construction documents (Figure 3).

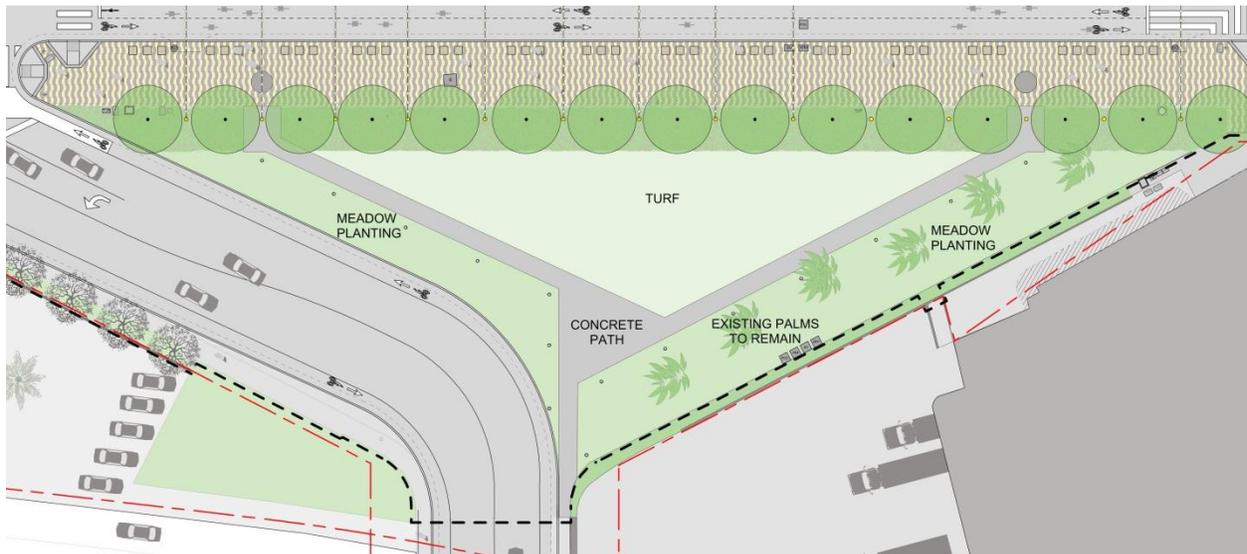


Figure 3

In consideration of the stage 2 water restrictions approved by Council on [August 12, 2014](#), the City has made several efforts within this project to significantly reduce the use of potable water for irrigation. This gateway triangle area, along with the rest of the landscaping in the entire project will be irrigated by treated urban runoff from the Santa Monica Urban Runoff Recycling Facility (SMURRF) reducing the need of potable water

for irrigation. Landscaping throughout the majority of the 5.5 acre project will utilize underground drip irrigation thus reducing treated urban runoff consumption. The areas within 5' of the pathways within the Gateway Triangle area will use drip irrigation as well. Areas more than 5' away from the path will utilize restricted spray irrigation of treated urban runoff. Of the 5.5 acre project only 0.23 acre will utilize spray irrigation. The existing gateway triangle area (before this construction) utilizes spray irrigation and is 0.38 acres, thus creating a 40% reduction in spray irrigated areas.

To reduce runoff, the project utilizes flow sensing and master valves which protect against irrigation lateral and mainline breaks. The project will utilize an evapotranspiration gauge to determine run times which will maximize water efficiency by calculating irrigation run times based on plant need and scientific data. Irrigation of the turf and meadow grass will be restricted to between 10pm-6am which reduces evaporation of the irrigation water thus increasing plant health. The irrigation system will be controlled from a Central Control System which will alert the user whenever there are irrigation line breaks or stuck valves. The turf used is Tifway 419 Hybrid Bermuda Sod which has one of the lowest water demands for turfgrass. The meadow plants used are Pennisetum Spathiolatum and Anigozanthus Hybrid 'Harmony' which are both moderate growers and will do very well with little irrigation.

Another benefit of the updated design is that it significantly lowers construction costs because it consists of only turf, meadow grass, concrete and irrigation as opposed to the original design which has more extensive landscaping.

Summary

The Gateway Triangle design was updated to provide more open usable space as requested by Council at the May 14, 2013 meeting. Pending the approval of Federal grant funding, the City will begin construction of this project in early 2015.

Prepared by: Zach Pollard, Civil Engineer