



Memorandum

TO: BUILDING BETTER
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

FROM: Ralph G. Tonseth
James R. Helmer

SUBJECT: AIRPORT AESTHETICS
DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

DATE: 04/23/04

Approved

Date

Council District: Citywide

INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

The City has embarked upon a multi-year program to upgrade and improve the facilities at the Airport, improving the aesthetics of the “campus.” At the same time, there are a number of transportation improvements being implemented adjacent to the Airport. The primary off Airport improvements include the 880/Coleman Interchange Project being managed by VTA, and the Route 87 Freeway Project being managed by Caltrans.

ANALYSIS

In order to provide a coherent aesthetic to the Airport and its surrounding environment for Airport customers and the community, City staff has established a working group to ensure a coordinated approach. Participants include staff from Convention, Arts and Entertainment Department (CAE), Department of Transportation (DOT), the Airport, and staff from agencies such as the VTA and Caltrans. Several meetings have been held, with the following results:

1. Airport staff initiated a landscape master planning process that includes definition of the appropriate boundaries of the Airport identity, and to recommend concepts for the aesthetic approach to these areas. The landscape master planner’s scope includes an investigation of the following areas:
 - The I-880 corridor from Coleman Ave. to Highway 87;
 - The Route 87 ramps at Skyport Drive and overcrossing at Airport Parkway;
 - The Highway 101 corridor from the De La Cruz interchange to the Highway 87 interchange;
 - The Guadalupe River corridor from I-880 to Route 101.

In September 2004, staff will present to this committee the concepts developed for these areas.

2. The VTA has retained Heygood and Associates to develop concepts for the landscaping project that will follow the construction of the 880/Coleman Interchange Improvement Project. DOT has presented Heygood's conceptual renderings to Council. These renderings include an enhanced landscape plan (as compared to standard Caltrans landscape requirements) and median island paving treatments that are within the budget of the funded 880/Coleman Project. Final design for the landscape portion of the project will not begin until early 2005. City staff (Airport, CAE and DOT) will continue working with the VTA and Caltrans to develop the design features, to ensure that all off-Airport aesthetics are consistent with the results of the Airport landscape master plan.

COORDINATION

The development of this report has been coordinated with the Convention, Arts, and Entertainment Department, and the Department of Transportation.

JAMES R HELMER
Director, Department of Transportation

RALPH G. TONSETH
Director of Aviation