

Street lighting Block 2 E

Notes of a conversation with Nathan Bruner –and Other investigation

Nathan is managing the under grounding project for Block 2E¹ which is a project that takes about 24-30 months to complete. Block 2 E is about 800 homes large and the work by his team would include the electrical hook up, trenching and placement of electric boxes, streetlights, trees and street resurfacing.

Nathan has the project designed and is ready to go to bid at the end of the month (December 2005). The meeting with the community was planned just before the project began. The first digging was planned for April with other activities supporting this along the way. The streetlights are not put in until later in the project but the planning needs to be in place from the beginning.

The city requires that cobra lights are installed at all intersections and if acorn lights are used that they are used in mid-block positions – there is no opt out for this requirement including Historic Districts from this regulation. The cobra lights are perceived to be safer because the light is directed to the center of the intersection and increasing driver's visibility.

Currently, the lighting plan includes mid block lighting. The current lighting is being upgraded. There are **77 light poles in the plan and we currently have 40 light poles so this assumes that 37 are mid block lights.** *The Historic Districts may affect this planning as the number of streetlights and the quality of lighting in historic districts would be affected. This current plan may not confirm to the guidelines that have already been vetted by planning department staff for these areas and Diane Kane in the planning department has the most experience with this issue.*

Nathan suggested that to include acorn lights in our area that we must pay for this through a Maintenance Assessment District and that we would also be required to pay for the annual maintenance of the lights. A ball park for the light poles ranged from \$5,000-\$10,000.00 each light.

Nathan outlined what he believes are the two options as follows;

Option 1 Proceed now with the under grounding project. Nathan would not put in mid- block light fixtures knowing that we would be adding lighting later. Nathan's team would coordinate the location of power sources based on the lighting plan. The areas would need to be retrenched to install the lights and hook up the power when the Maintenance Assessment District is ready/funded.

Benefit. This benefits Nathan and his team for the efforts and work that they have dedicated to this so far as it would put in place the plans that have been set in motion

Cost: More costly to the residents/Maintenance Assessment district to install lights. Nathan also mentioned that if for any reason the funds collected fall short, then the option of putting in lights

¹ Block 2 E includes the area at the South end – Bandini, to the West along Heritage Park, Pine Street at the north end and East at Ft. Stockton by Sunset.

Street lighting Block 2 E

as the money becomes available may be an option with this type of plan. This also assumes use of Cobra lights at the intersections of our narrow residential streets, which may not be necessary.

Option 2 Begin the formation of a Maintenance Assessment District first to collect funds and delay the project until it can be coordinated. The Maintenance Assessment district would need to get a consensus from a majority of the 800 households in the area. Traffic would go over the plans for the lighting using the acorn lights and the cobra fixtures would be installed at the intersections as previously mentioned. The costs would be lower due to coordination of the trenching, which is an expensive part of the project and thus trenching would not need to be done twice or would be covered by the under grounding funds. .

Benefit: The project would require trenching only one time and the costs to the city and the Maintenance Assessment District would be lower. The negotiations with SBC for removal of the telephone poles could continue so that the overall coordination would be better.

Cost: This will delay the project by six months to one year but the costs would be lower and the project would be more coordinated. Should the neighbors wish to proceed as planned without adding any lighting upgrades then the project would have just been delayed without the benefits of the cobra lighting.

The process would involve Andy Field's division, and then he would get traffic involved.

Nathan suggests a meeting with District 2 representative and with Andy Fields to coordinate this depending on resident reaction to enhanced lighting regardless of the options.

Follow up call to MHH January 18,2006 SBC is not cooperating with the project and the telephone poles and wires won't be coming down.

Call on January 19, 2006 to Tallmadge representative. Will come speak tour residents as they went through the process for a project. They did not rely upon the city for contracting the work but contracted the work themselves. The county/city managed the funds and takes a small percentage management fee. The improvements are starting to come in and looking good. It has taken a long time.