



May 20, 2025

Jenny Russo  
Grants Program Manager  
SANDAG  
1011 Union St., Suite 400  
San Diego, CA 92101

Subject: City of Carlsbad ATGP Project Schedule/Scope/Budget Amendment Request

Dear Ms. Russo:

The City of Carlsbad (city) is requesting an amendment to grant agreement No. 5004838 for a change in scope and a 36-month extension for the Carlsbad Boulevard and Tamarack Avenue Intersection Improvements Project (Project). The requested scope change and the 36-month extension will allow for the completion of the construction phase of the Project and grant close-out. The city will utilize its local or other funding sources to complete the engineering and environmental permitting phases of the Project.

**Previous efforts undertaken to maintain the project scope of work and schedule:**

The Project objective is to enhance the safety, access and aesthetics for all modes of transportation at the regionally significant, coastal intersection of Carlsbad Boulevard and Tamarack Avenue. The Project team had been working diligently to complete critical elements for the Project including design, environmental permitting and right-of-way (ROW) reconciliation with the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks). Since November 2024, the Project has been on hold for SANDAG's consideration of a grant amendment to change the termination date.

**Timeline:**

The City Council authorized the Public Works Director to apply for a grant from SANDAG under the Active Transportation Grant Program for the Carlsbad Boulevard and Tamarack Avenue Intersection Improvements Project (Capital Improvement Program Project No. 6058), accepting the terms of the grant agreement, on March 10, 2015.

- The Public Works Director signed the original grant for \$1,054,000 on May 9, 2016.
- SANDAG provided two extensions to the grant term to allow the city more time to collaborate on the Project details with State Parks, which owns land immediately adjacent to the Project area.

**Public Works Branch**

**Transportation Department**

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- Amendment No. 1 to the grant was approved by SANDAG on April 17, 2019, extending the grant termination date to May 9, 2022.
  - Amendment No. 2 to the grant was approved by SANDAG on May 3, 2022, extending the grant termination date to May 8, 2025.
- On July 18, 2023, the City Council approved the conceptual design of the Project, which includes a roundabout at the intersection, pedestrian safety improvements and widening the sidewalk on the bridge over the Agua Hedionda Lagoon inlet. The City Council authorized staff to proceed with the Project's next steps, which include its final design and environmental permitting, and directed staff to return with information on five months of traffic performance at the coastal roundabout project at the intersection of Carlsbad Boulevard and Cannon Road before seeking the City Council's approval for construction. That roundabout is expected to be completed in 2028.
- On Nov. 12, 2024, the City Council authorized staff to ask SANDAG to amend the scope of work to remove the construction phase and request a 24-month time extension of the grant for the Project (Resolution No. 2024-245.)
- On Feb. 12, 2025, SANDAG's TransNet Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee recommended that the SANDAG Board reject the city's request. Committee members expressed concern that the city's request was unrealistic due to too many uncertainties, such as the lack of a California Coastal Commission permit and environmental clearance for the Project, and stated it was unlikely that the Project could be completed in the timeframe the city has requested.
- On March 21, 2025, the SANDAG Transportation Committee also recommended that the SANDAG Board reject the city's request. Some Transportation Committee members expressed support for the Project and noted it has region-wide benefits but also had concerns about the progress to date, the absence of funding to construct the Project and the City Council's decision to wait to approve the final design until another roundabout project is completed and studied, which they said leaves the Project's design and construction timeline uncertain.
- On April 29, 2025, the City Council reviewed three options and approved a smaller-scale project with limited intersection improvements in Resolution No. 2025-101 (Attachment A).

For additional information, please refer to the Project website linked [here](#).

**A detailed explanation on the reason for delay and scope of work change, and how it was unavoidable:**

As a regionally significant coastal access corridor, this Project has included extensive public outreach and multi-agency involvement since inception. The conceptual design phase evaluated multiple alternative options for intersection control, and the Project team made significant progress on final design, environmental studies, permitting and ROW coordination based on the preferred option at the time.

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Part of the reason for the delay is the evolution of the Project scope and costs for a roundabout option including re-constructing the entire right-of-way width for an approximate 1,500-foot road segment, where the estimated construction costs now exceed \$19 million. This was a significant change from the 2015 construction costs for the originally proposed intersection improvements estimated in the \$2 million range.

Construction funding has been contingent on the availability of grants and other outside sources that have been limited to date, with future opportunities uncertain in the changing economic climate. Since April 2025, the delay in the Project presented an opportunity for the City Council to re-evaluate the Project scope and implementation approach. As described above, the City Council approved the smaller-scale project with limited intersection improvements on April 29, 2025.

**Demonstrate the ability to succeed in the extended timeframe the grantee is requesting and with the revised scope of work:**

The Project team is prepared to revise the design, environmental permitting and ROW coordination for a smaller-scale project with limited intersection improvements approved by the City Council on April 29, 2025. The city plans to use local funds to complete the design and environmental permitting phases for the updated scope of the Project.

With updated information regarding SANDAG grant funds associated with this project, the City Council directed staff to pursue a smaller-scale project instead of a roundabout at the intersection, which focuses on Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA-related safety enhancements. The details of the revised scope of the Project are included in the staff report provided to the City Council as Option 3 explained in Item No. 9 on the April 29, 2025, City Council agenda linked [here](#).

The revised scope improvements would include an enhanced pedestrian pathway and crosswalks, upgraded curb ramps to meet the current ADA standards, pedestrian phase traffic signal improvements, and improving the walkability of the area to the south by freeing up an additional 1.5 feet of width on the existing walkway. A schematic showing the proposed scope revisions is shown in Attachment B.

The SANDAG grant for the Project expired on May 8, 2025, and has an estimated available balance of \$455,000. This amendment requests that SANDAG change the termination date and scope of the grant agreement so the remaining funds can be used for the Project's construction. The requested three-year time extension will provide the city with sufficient time to complete the remaining design and environmental studies/documentation, get State Parks' final approval, obtain the necessary permits including the coastal development permit and construct the regional improvements. SANDAG's approval of the grant amendment will fund the construction of the intersection enhancements resulting in a significant regional benefit to safety, mobility and coastal access for pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers and transit riders.

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Enclosed with this letter is the proposed updated "Project Scope of Work" (Attachment C) and revised "Scope of Work, Schedule and Budget" (Attachment D). Thank you for considering this request. Please contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Frank". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Frank, PE  
Transportation Director/City Engineer

Attachments:

- A. April 29, 2025, City Council Resolution
- B. Schematic of proposed revised scope
- C. Proposed updated Project Scope of Work
- D. Proposed revised Scope of Work, Schedule and Budget

cc: Paz Gomez, Deputy City Manager, Public Works  
Zach Korach, Finance Director  
Hossein Ajideh, Engineering Manager  
Mariel Cairns, Principal Engineer

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-101**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A SMALLER SCALE PROJECT WITH LIMITED IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE CARLSBAD BOULEVARD AND TAMARACK AVENUE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Carlsbad, California has determined that it is necessary, desirable and in the public interest to make improvements to the Carlsbad Boulevard and Tamarack Avenue intersection, Capital Improvement Program, or CIP, Project No. 6058, or Project; and

WHEREAS, a smaller scale project with limited improvements at the intersection of Carlsbad Boulevard and Tamarack Avenue as a part of this Project would enhance coastal access, and improve walking and biking infrastructure along Carlsbad's coastline; and

WHEREAS, the Project team has completed conceptual design options, traffic technical studies, and is ready to move forward with completing the environmental review, permitting and final engineering for the Project; and

WHEREAS, on July 18, 2023, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-206, approving the conceptual design of the Project, which includes a roundabout at the intersection of Carlsbad Boulevard and Tamarack Avenue, pedestrian safety improvements, and widening the sidewalk on the bridge over the Agua Hedionda Lagoon inlet; and

WHEREAS, the City Council also authorized staff to proceed with the next steps with the roundabout option of the Project and directed staff to return with performance data on another coastal roundabout at the intersection of Carlsbad Boulevard and Cannon Road before seeking the City Council approval for construction of the Project; and

WHEREAS, on Nov. 12, 2024, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-245, approving the submittal of a request to the San Diego Association of Governments, or SANDAG, to amend the grant in the Active Transportation Grant Program to change the grant scope to remove the construction phase from the grant funding and extend it for two years for the Project; and

WHEREAS, staff submitted the amendment request to SANDAG staff to change the grant scope to remove the construction phase from the grant funding and extend it for two years to comply with the City Council direction to postpone construction of the Project to a later date when additional data related to the performance of the roundabout at Carlsbad Boulevard and Cannon Road intersection can be obtained and evaluated; and

WHEREAS, on Feb. 12, 2025, the SANDAG TransNet Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee, or ITOC, recommended that the SANDAG Board reject the city's request because ITOC members expressed concern that the city's request was unrealistic due to too many uncertainties; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2025, the SANDAG Transportation Committee recommended that the SANDAG Board reject the city's request due to concerns about the progress to date and the absence of funding to construct the Project, while some members expressed support for the roundabout in the Project and noted its region-wide benefits; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2025, SANDAG pulled the item for the grant from the SANDAG Board meeting agenda, to be scheduled at a later date; and

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2025, the City Council reviewed three options and selected Option 3, which includes a smaller scale project with limited improvements at the intersection of Carlsbad Boulevard and Tamarack Avenue as the preferred option, and authorized staff to move forward with the environmental review, permitting and final engineering design of the Project; and

WHEREAS, no additional funding is needed at this time but staff will return with a request for additional design funding if the SANDAG grant is not extended and at a future date for funding of the construction phase.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Carlsbad, California, as follows:

1. That the above recitations are true and correct.
2. That the proposed action to approve a preferred intersection design option is statutorily exempt from environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 as it involves only feasibility or planning studies, including consideration of environmental factors, for possible future actions that have not been approved, adopted or funded. The proposed action does not have a legally binding effect on any possible future discretionary action.
3. That the City Council approves a smaller scale project with limited improvements at the Carlsbad Boulevard and Tamarack Avenue intersection as the preferred intersection design option.
4. That staff are authorized to move forward with environmental review, permitting, and final engineering for the selected design option of a smaller scale project with limited intersection improvements for the Carlsbad Boulevard and Tamarack Avenue Intersection Improvements Project, CIP Project No. 6058.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED at a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Carlsbad on the 29th day of April, 2025, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Blackurn, Bhat-Patel, Acosta, Burkholder, Shin.

NAYS: None.

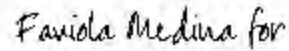
ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.



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KEITH BLACKBURN, Mayor



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SHERRY FREISINGER, City Clerk  
(SEAL)



## OPTION 3 – SMALLER SCALE PROJECT, LIMITED INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS



Updated Project Scope of Work- <b>DRAFT</b>			
Task	Current Completion Date	New Completion Date	Description of Current Task Status
Collect Baseline Data	July 2022		Completed
Mobilization: Field Investigations and Data Collection	July 2022		Completed
Alternatives Analysis	September 2022		Completed
Public Outreach	April 2023		Completed (additional public outreach may be performed before construction)
Environmental Clearance & Permitting	January 2024	November 2026	
Complete Engineering and Final Design	February 2025	November 2026	
Award Construction Contract	April 2025	March 2027	
Project Construction	September 2027	September 2027 thru February 2028	

