



City of Santa Barbara  
Community Development Department

**Interoffice Memorandum**

**DATE:** January 12, 2007  
**TO:** Architectural Board of Review  
**FROM:** Paul Casey, Community Development Director  
**SUBJECT:** St. Francis Neighborhood Traffic Management Program and Safe Routes to School Project

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify the limited role of the Architectural Board of Review (ABR) in the design review of the St Francis Neighborhood Traffic Management Program and Safe Routes to School Projects. These projects have gone before the ABR on several occasions and deal with the aesthetics of traffic calming devices associated with the two programs.

It is important to note that the Transportation and Circulation Committee and City Council have reviewed both programs and have approved the installation of the devices which have the purpose of slowing vehicle speeds through the affected neighborhoods. One condition that the City Council placed on the project during their approval was that prior to permanent construction ABR be given the opportunity to provide input as to the design of the roundabouts, to ensure that they are as attractive as possible. The construction or not of the roundabouts is not a consideration for the ABR.

The following is an excerpt of the recommendations from the Council Agenda Report dated April 11, 2006 and the subsequent approval motion of City Council:

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** That Council:

- A. Authorize staff to proceed with the installation of 11 traffic calming devices as part of the Safe Routes to School (SR2S) pedestrian improvements and the St. Francis Area Mobility Plan;
- B. Authorize the Public Works Director to negotiate and execute a contract with Penfield & Smith, in an amount not to exceed \$56,750, for final design of elements of the St. Francis Area Mobility Plan;
- C. Authorize the Public Works Director to negotiate and execute a contract with Penfield & Smith, in an amount not to exceed \$49,840, for final design of the SR2S Pedestrian Improvements Project; and

**Motion:**

Councilmembers House/Horton to approve the recommendations and to direct that specific attention is made to: 1) the design review process; 2) the design of the Olive and Valerio Streets intersection; and 3) the development of a monitoring and review program dealing with crosswalks, pedestrian access and visibility; Agreement Nos. 22,015 and 22,016.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

There was discussion at the City Council meeting that the ABR should review the project to ensure the installations were appropriate from a design perspective without affecting the ability of Public Works to complete the construction. The installations have been before the ABR on several occasions since July 2006, with the latest being December 18, 2006. The motion from the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting as it relates to the devices is as follows:

Substitute

Motion: Continued indefinitely to the Consent Calendar with the following comments:  
**1)** The project is ready for Final Approval. **2)** Provide details indicating that the concrete color and texture will resemble sandstone. **3)** Replace proposed brick or paved parkways with landscaping in particular at the high school intersection. **4)** Provide fast growing box trees to meet visibility clearance standards. **5)** Provide all appropriate landscape details. **6)** The Board finds that the traffic circles in the center of three intersections are aesthetically detrimental, and the circles are not a part of this approval. The circles are continued indefinitely with the applicant to restudy the design to address the Boards concern relating to tire marking of hardscape and potential damage to the landscape.

Action: Mudge/Wienke, 6/0/0. Motion carried. (LeCron/Mosel absent.)

The traffic circles will be presented again to the ABR at your meeting of January 16, 2007. As mentioned earlier, the installation of traffic circles has already been approved by City Council, who specifically requested that the ABR help staff make the traffic circles as attractive as possible, to appear an integral part of the neighborhood. This design review process presents an opportunity for the ABR to assist staff and the Council in achieving that goal.

It is our hope that ABR and the applicant team can reach a satisfactory resolution to the design and aesthetics of the traffic roundabouts.

Cc: Mayor and City Council  
James L. Armstrong, City Administrator  
Steve Wiley, City Attorney  
Tony Nisich, Public Works Director  
Browning Allen, Transportation Manager  
Jaime Limón, Senior Planner II