



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: CALTRANS SUSTAINABLE
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
GRANT

FROM: John Ristow

DATE: August 30, 2021

Approved

Date

9/1/2021

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 3, 5, 6, 7, 8

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a “Resolution of Local Support” to receive grant funds from the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant that indicates the City will:

- (a) Follow all grant program requirements; and
- (b) Authorize the City Manager or designee to negotiate and execute grant agreements and all documents necessary to effectuate the grant agreements with MTC, that are administered by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in an amount not to exceed \$797,670 for reimbursement for the following two projects:
 - (1) Walk Safe San Jose, in an amount not to exceed \$398,400; and
 - (2) King Road Complete Street Project, in an amount not to exceed \$399,270.

OUTCOME

Acceptance of the funds will provide \$797,670 in grant funding to support outreach and planning efforts for two bicycle and pedestrian safety projects. Adoption of the above resolution is required by Caltrans as part of the grant award process. These grant opportunities will provide \$797,670 in grant funding for projects that address key City priorities related to our Vision Zero, General Plan mode shift, and Climate Smart goals.

BACKGROUND

In 2015, the City of San José adopted a Vision Zero transportation safety initiative, which aims to eliminate fatalities and reduce severe injuries caused by traffic collisions. On October 6, 2020, City Council adopted the Better Bike Plan 2025 which provides a roadmap developing an “all ages and abilities” bicycle network.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) actively pursues grant funds for projects that support the goals of the Transportation and Aviation City Service Area (CSA). On February 16, 2021, DOT submitted two applications for funding consideration under the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program. DOT has been notified that both projects have been preliminary recommended for funding, pending adoption of the proposed “Resolution of Local Support”.

ANALYSIS

The Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program (STPG) was created to support the California Department of Transportation’s (Caltrans) Mission: Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California’s economy and livability. The STPG program is funded through Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

Upon Council approval and final determination by Caltrans, the City will be eligible to receive STPG funding for the following two projects that would support planning and outreach efforts to advance our safety and mobility goals. Specifically, these projects support San José’s 2040 General Plan, Climate Smart Plan, Vision Zero Action Plan, Better Bike Plan 2025, and the developing Access and Mobility Plan. In addition, these projects support the Valley Transportation Authority Access to Transit Plan and the Caltrans D4 Pedestrian Master Plan.

Upon completion of outreach and planning activities funded by the STPG funds, City may pursue additional funding sources to complete construction implementation.

Walk Safe San José

The Walk Safe San José project is a pedestrian safety plan to encourage mode shift to walking, transit, and emerging mobility in Council Districts 3, 5, 6 and 7, encircling the downtown area. As identified in the 2020 Vision Zero Action Plan these districts are experiencing the highest incidence of traffic fatalities and severe injuries. Eight preliminary focus areas that serve vulnerable populations have been chosen through mapping injuries, schools, senior housing, high transit ridership, and other strategic variables. The main deliverables of this project will include: 1) inclusive outreach, led by California Walks, to better identify focus areas, 2) 30% design plans for quick build street designs in the focus areas, and 3) multi-stakeholder placemaking strategies to be used citywide.

King Road Complete Streets

The King Road Complete Street project aims to make King Rd, in Council Districts 5, 7 and 8 one of San José's highest bus ridership corridors, a safer and more inviting place to walk, bike and take transit. The project also focuses on improving transit access and reliability for historically under resourced East San José neighborhoods and improve connections to key regional transportation hubs. By involving other external agencies, the project will work to implement a community-based planning process to ensure it reflects the community's transportation goals and values. The project will culminate in a phased approach complete street plan for King Rd outlining quick build, near-term, and long-term improvements for the corridor.

CONCLUSION

Acceptance of the Caltrans grant will allow the City to receive up to \$797,670 in one-time grant funding from the Caltrans STPG program to advance our safety and mobility goals.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

After the acceptance and award of the grant funding by Caltrans, staff will bring forward recommendations for Council consideration to recognize and appropriate the grant funding.

CLIMATE SMART SAN JOSE

The recommendation in this memo aligns with one or more Climate Smart San José energy, water, or mobility goals by facilitating mobility choices other than single-occupancy, gas-powered vehicles and reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

This memorandum will be posted on the City's website for the September 14, 2021 City Council meeting. Staff will coordinate a public outreach meeting to the affected neighborhoods and businesses during the design process.

COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement Department, and the City Manager's Budget Office.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION/INPUT

This item does not require input from a board or commission.

COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS

Project cost of \$958,000, will be funded via \$797,670 in grant funds, and \$160,330 in local match that will be funded through available funds in DOT's Traffic Capital Improvement Program. After final acceptance and award of the grant funding by Caltrans, staff will bring forward expenditure and revenue recommendations for Council consideration to recognize and appropriate the grant funding as part of a future budget process.

CEQA

Categorically Exempt, File No. PP18-029, CEQA Guideline Section 15301(c) Existing Facilities.

/s/
JOHN RISTOW
Director of Transportation

For questions, please contact Devin Gianchandani, Transportation Manager, at devin.gianchandani@sanjoseca.gov