



City of Sacramento City Council

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814
www.CityofSacramento.org

Meeting Date: 3/20/2012

Report Type: Consent

Title: Authorization to Apply for Safe Routes to Schools Funding

Report ID: 2012-00257

Location: District 2

Recommendation: Pass a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for the State Safe Routes to Schools Grant Program for a new traffic signal at Rio Linda Boulevard and Acacia Avenue, and new sidewalk improvements along Acacia Avenue and to commit to a local contribution of \$224,200 in local transportation funds.

Contact: Ed Cox, Program Analyst, (916) 808-8434; Hector Barron, City Traffic Engineer, (916) 808-2669, Department of Transportation

Presenter: None

Department: Transportation Department

Division: Traffic Engineering Division

Dept ID: 15001161

Attachments:

- 1-Description/Analysis
- 2-Background
- 3-Resolution
- 4-Exhibit A - Location Map

City Attorney Review

Approved as to Form
Jerry Hicks
3/5/2012 11:38:55 AM

City Treasurer Review

Reviewed for Impact on Cash and Debt
Russell Fehr
2/29/2012 1:48:46 PM

Approvals/Acknowledgements

Department Director or Designee: Jerry Way - 3/5/2012 9:07:15 AM

Description/Analysis

Issue: Caltrans has announced a call for project applications for the State Safe Routes to Schools Grant Program which are due March 30, 2012.

Policy Considerations: Funding this project is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan goal to promote and support economic vitality by investing in infrastructure development to support sustainable growth.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): The application to apply for State Safe Routes to Schools Grant Program is not subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Under CEQA general rule 15061-B-3, CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. These actions will have no effect on the environment, thus are not subject to CEQA.

Sustainability Considerations: The project is consistent with Sustainability Master Plan goals to help to enhance the pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the public right-of-way and to encourage pedestrian and bicycle trips, which promotes the use of non-motorized modes of transportation.

Commission/Committee Action: None.

Rationale for Recommendation: This project will improve safety for children who walk or bike to Martin Luther King Jr. Technology Academy. This project was selected because it is the highest ranking Transportation Programming Guide (TPG) project that also best meets the published grant funding objectives. State grant funding allows the City to deliver priority projects and programs.

Financial Considerations: The estimated cost for the proposed project is \$674,200. The State Safe Routes to Schools Grant Program will reimburse a maximum 90% of \$500,000 total project cost (i.e. \$450,000). The remaining 10% plus any other costs in excess of \$500,000 would be required to be provided by other sources. Providing a local contribution demonstrates commitment to the project as well as significantly improving the competitiveness of the application and the chances of grant award. Therefore, if this application is selected for funding, a local contribution of \$224,200 will be provided from the City's local transportation funds to reimburse project development costs and grant application costs prior to grant award and also to provide local matching funds.

There are no general funds planned or allocated for the project.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD)

None, since no goods or services are being procured with this action.

Background

The purpose of the State Safe Routes to Schools Grant Program is to make bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements for school-related travel. The State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is the administrator for grant funds to these improvements. The goals for the program are to reduce injuries and fatalities and to encourage increased bicycling and walking among students.

Caltrans announced a call for projects in December 2011 for the State Safe Routes to Schools Grant Program. Project nominations are due by March 30, 2012. The City has applied for and received several grants from both State and Federal Safe Routes to Schools Grant Programs over the past eight years.

Proposed projects for the Safe Routes to Schools Grant Program need to be easily deliverable without major right-of-way issues or complex environmental studies. The recommendations in this report are for funding infrastructure construction.

Additionally, the Safe Routes to Schools Grant Program guidelines limit the amount of reimbursement funds to \$450,000. This limits the types of projects to traffic signals, sidewalk projects and bikeway projects. Among the highly ranked projects of this nature, the strongest candidate to successfully compete for the grant funds is the traffic signal at Rio Linda Boulevard and Acacia Avenue (2010 TPG signals rank #26) along with the sidewalk improvements along Acacia Avenue between Rio Linda Boulevard and Altos Avenue (2010 TPG sidewalks rank #44).

Even though some other candidate projects have a higher ranking in the Transportation Programming Guide, they would not compete well for this funding source. Some of the criteria for the TPG are not necessarily aligned with criteria that make a strong “Safe Routes to Schools” candidate project. Several high ranking candidate projects from the TPG were eliminated from consideration because they did not have the best combination of these criteria.

A strong “Safe Routes to School” application involves: 1) addressing infrastructure deficiencies along a confined walking and bicycling route used by a large number of the enrolled students, 2) middle school enrollment which draw from a larger residential area, 3) connections to the existing non-motorized path system, and 4) a history of pedestrian and bicycle collisions along the route.

The past few applications the City of Sacramento has submitted for Safe Routes to Schools grants have been unsuccessful due to the competitive nature of this funding source. The current cycle of funds is likely to have as much or more competition, therefore, it would be in the best interest for the City to submit a project that best fits with the elements of a strong “Safe Routes to Schools” project. The project that is the best fit is the improvements on Acacia Avenue at Rio Linda Boulevard.



RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

APPLICATION FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS FUNDING FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT RIO LINDA BOULEVARD AND ACACIA AVENUE AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS ALONG ACACIA

BACKGROUND

- A. The State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has issued a call for projects to receive funding from the State Safe Routes to Schools Grant Program.
- B. Proposed projects for the Safe Routes to Schools Grant Program need to be easily deliverable without major right-of-way issues or complex environmental studies. The recommendations for this report are for funding infrastructure construction.
- C. The candidate location was taken from the 2010 Transportation Programming Guide (TPG). It is the highest ranking location that best meet the published grant funding objectives.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. The City Manager is authorized to submit an application for the State Safe Routes to Schools Grant Program for a new traffic signal at Rio Linda Boulevard and Acacia Avenue, and new sidewalk improvements to Acacia Avenue.
- Section 2. If this application is selected for funding, a local contribution of \$224,200 will be provided from local transportation funds to reimburse project development costs and grant application costs prior to grant award and also to provide local matching funds.
- Section 3. Exhibit A is incorporated into and made part of this Resolution.

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Exhibit A: Map of Acacia Avenue between Altos Avenue and Rio Linda Boulevard.



EXHIBIT A

Location Map for
TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT
RIO LINDA BOULEVARD AND ACACIA AVENUE
AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS ALONG ACACIA AVENUE



Map Date: FEB/12 ; Map Contact: S. Tobin