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REPORT TO COUNCIL
City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671
www. CityofSacramento.org

CONSENT
November 29, 2005

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Subject: Application for Bicycle Transportation Account to Fund the Niños Parkway Bike Trail

Location/Council District: Niños Parkway Bike Trail, Phase 1 and 2: South Natomas, the Western Area Power Authority Easement between West El Camino and B-Drain Canal. Location map – Exhibit A of Resolution. (District 1)

Recommendation:

Adopt a Resolution: 1) approving the submission of two applications for Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) to fund Phase 1c and Phase 2 of the Niños Parkway Bike Trail; 2) appropriating a local funding match of $50,000 (Fund 796) from the South Natomas Facilities Benefit Assessment fund for the Niños Parkway Bike Trail, Phase 2; 3) authorizing and directing the City Manager to execute the Local Agency-State Agreement Bicycle Transportation Account Project with Caltrans if either project is awarded a state BTA grant; and 4) appropriating up to $880,000 of State Grant Funds (Fund 512) to the Niños Parkway Bike Trail Project (PN: HC61) if the project is awarded a State BTA grant.

Contact: Edward J. Cox, Program Analyst, 808-8434; Theresa Arnold, Special Projects Engineer, (916) 808-5514

Presenters: None

Department: Department of Transportation

Division: Engineering Services

Organization No: 3431

Summary:

The State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has issued a call for projects to receive funding from the Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA). Staff recommendation is to submit two applications to fund the Niños Parkway Bike Trail (Phase 1c and Phase 2).

Committee/Commission Action:

The City/County Bicycle Advisory Committee has reviewed this project and recommends City Council support the application for BTA funds.

Background Information:

The BTA provides state funds for city and county projects that improve safety and convenience for bicycle commuters. In September, Caltrans issued a call for projects to be funded using the BTA. Local agencies that have a recently adopted Bicycle Master Plan are eligible to receive BTA funds. The current 2010 Sacramento City/County Bikeway Master Plan (BMP) was adopted by the City Council in 2001, which satisfies the requirements for this funding source. Applications for this cycle of funds are due to Caltrans on December 1, 2005.

Funding amounts for the BTA are $5,000,000 per year statewide. The maximum any local agency can receive per year is $1,250,000 with a required minimum 10% local match. While the City is eligible to apply for up to the maximum, there is strong competition for these funds across the state. Staff believes that the amount of money that is likely to be funded for any project is between $300,000 and $500,000.

In January of this year, the City Council approved a resolution to authorize staff to submit an application for Phase 1 of the Niños Parkway Bike Trail for the 05-06 funding cycle. Caltrans has not yet released any information regarding projects that will be awarded these funds. Without knowing whether this project has been funded, staff is recommending to re-apply for the applicable portions of Phase 1 of the project. To insure that the City does not miss-out on funding of future phases, staff is also recommending submitting a second application for Phase 2.

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) completed a Master Plan for the overall development of the Niños Parkway in 2003. DPR has recently received some grant funds to construct portions of the parkway and bike trail. The funds received so far are sufficient to construct approximately one-third of the entire bike trail in Phase 1. The first segment, hereafter referred to as Phase 1a is between Strauch Park and Edmonton Drive. This phase is under construction. The second segment, hereafter referred to as Phase 1b is between Edmonton Drive and San Juan Road. Grant funds for this segment were recently awarded to DPR. The design of this segment will begin soon. The remaining two-thirds, herein referred to as Phase 1c remains unfunded.

Phase 1c is the segment between West El Camino Avenue and Strauch Park. This segment provides connections from the residential neighborhood to Rio Tierra Jr. High School, Strauch Elementary School, Strauch Park, and Niños Park.

Phase 2 of the Bike Trail is the segment north of San Juan Road to the B-Drain Canal, including the crossing of San Juan Road. Connections further north are anticipated to be a condition of approval for a pending development application.

A Negative Declaration for the entire parkway has been prepared. A completed environmental document is one of the criteria to receive BTA funds.

The Niños Parkway Bike Trail project is ranked Number 2 on the list of off-street bikeway projects in the 2006 Transportation Programming Guide (TPG). The Number 1 project in the TPG, the South Sacramento Parkway (west) is not eligible for this funding source at this time.

In order to apply for the BTA funds for the Niños Parkway Bike Trail, the City must provide local funds in the amount of a minimum of 10% of the total project cost. The City Council approved South Natomas Facilities Benefit Assessment (FBA) project list identifies $2,000,000 for "Bikeway System Design." The authorization to establish the Capital Improvement Program and to appropriate the matching local funds in the amount of $45,000 (Fund 796-South Natomas FBA) was approved by Resolution No. 2003-801. Staff is seeking an additional appropriation of $50,000 to provide the local match for Phase 2.

Financial Considerations:

State funding will allow the City to deliver priority projects and programs sooner. Local match funding is available for the projects being recommended. The estimated cost for Phase 1 of this project is $380,000. The required local fund match of $45,000 (Fund 796) has already been appropriated to the Niños Parkway Bike Trail, Phase I (PN: HC61). The estimated cost for Phase 2 is $500,000. The required fund match of $50,000 must be appropriated from the South Natomas Facilities Benefit Assessment (FBA) account. If the grant funds are awarded, they will be added to fund either or both project phases.

Environmental Considerations:

This activity is not considered a project as defined by Section 15378 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines. The activity does not involve physical construction and has no potential to cause a significant impact on the environment (CEQA Section 15061(b)(3)).

Policy Considerations:

Leveraging of local funds with state or federal funding is consistent with Council priorities of fiscal soundness. The action requested herein is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan to improve the transportation system and enhance and preserve the neighborhoods.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):

None.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Nicholas Theocharides
Engineering Services Manager

Approved by: _____
Marty Hanneman
Director, Department of Transportation

Recommendation Approved:

_____
ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager

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RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

APPLICATION FOR BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION ACCOUNT TO FUND THE NIÑOS PARKWAY BIKE TRAIL

BACKGROUND

A. The State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has issued a call for projects to receive funding from the Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA). The maximum any local agency can receive per year is $1,250,000 with a required 10% local match.

B. Due to the uncertainty of a pending application from the previous BTA call for projects, two applications to fund the Niños Parkway Bike Trail, Phase 1c and Phase 2 should be submitted.

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

Section 1. Approve the submission of two applications for Bicycle Transportation Account to fund Phase 1c and Phase 2 of the Niños Parkway Bike Trail;

Section 2. Appropriate a local funding match of $50,000 (Fund 796) from the South Natomas Facilities Benefit Assessment fund to the Niños Parkway Bike Trail Project (PN: HC61);

Section 3. Authorize and direct the City Manager to execute the Local Agency-State Agreement Bicycle Transportation Account Project with Caltrans if the project is awarded a state BTA grant; and

Section 4. Appropriate up to $880,000 of State Grant Funds (Fund 512) to the Niños Parkway Bike Trail Project (PN: HC61) if the project is awarded a State BTA grant.

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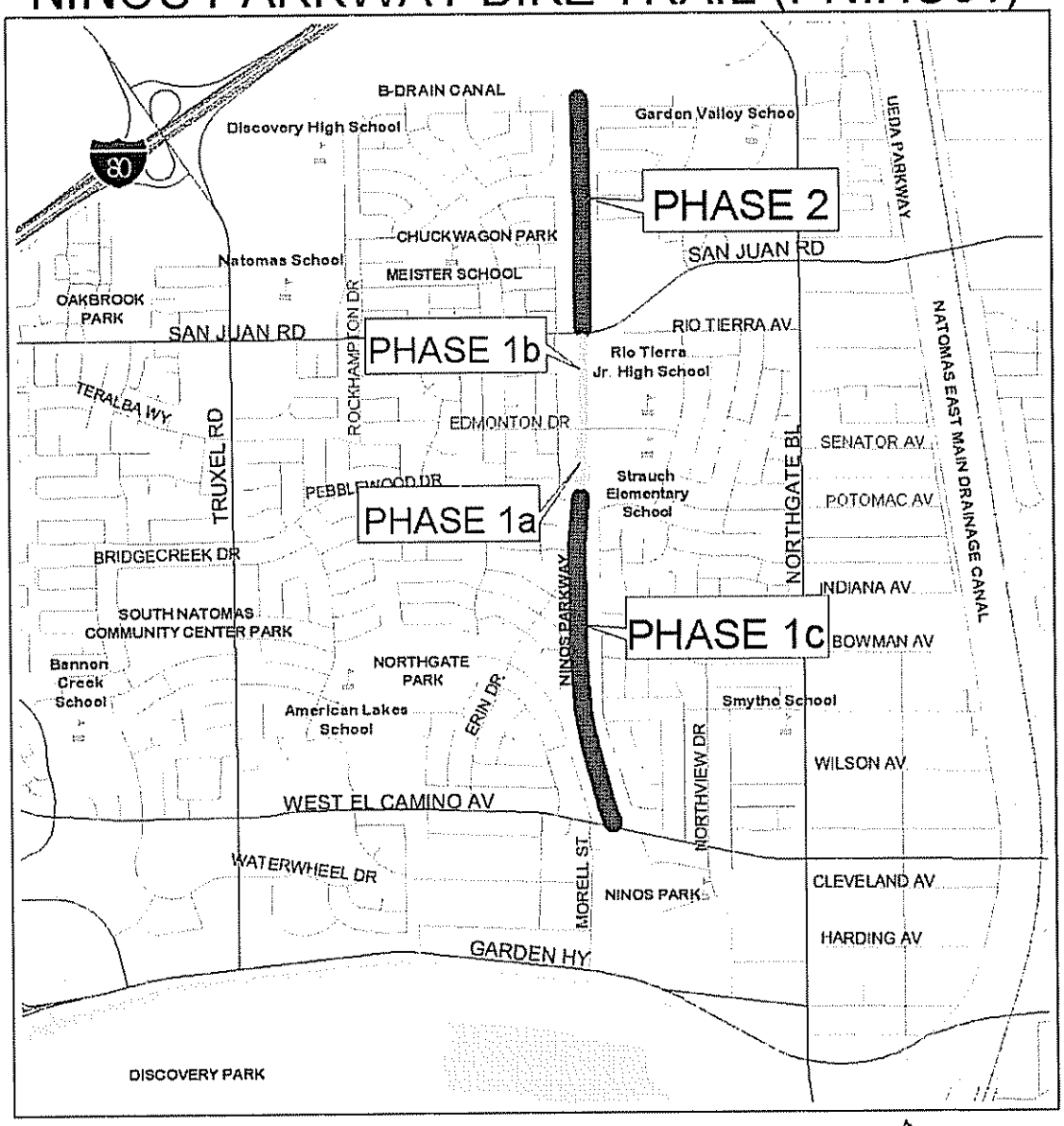
EXHIBIT A

Location Map for

NINOS PARKWAY BIKE TRAIL (PN:HC61)



Map Contact: S. Tobin
November 2005

Department of TRANSPORTATION City of Sacramento