




Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

May 26, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager

Submitted by: Andrew Clough, Director, Public Works

Subject: Grant Application: Active Transportation Program for 9th Street Pathway

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Caltrans Active Transportation Program for completion of the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension Pathway Phase II for an amount up to \$850,250.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

If awarded, this Active Transportation Program (ATP) application would bring in about \$850,250 of competitive grant funding revenue.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$895,000. The \$44,750 difference represents City local matching funds, which will be available incrementally from the Measure B Bike/Ped Fund (Fund 392) beginning in FY 2016. While not required for ATP grants, matching funds improve the competitiveness of the application by leveraging local resources. If awarded, the grant funds must be fully expended within 3 years of the fiscal year award date, by the end of FY 2018.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard currently terminates just south of Heinz Street, north of Ashby Avenue adjacent to the Berkeley Bowl West. Phase I of the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension Pathway was completed in June 2012 and consists of a shared-use pathway on the south side of Ashby between Murray Street and Folger Street adjacent to the Fire Warehouse; and further south between Folger Street and the Emeryville border adjacent to the Marchant Building.

The only existing route between the end of the 9th Street Bike Boulevard and the existing 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension Pathway Phase I is along 9th and Murray Streets. This route crosses Ashby Avenue at a busy intersection and has heavy vehicle traffic (including large commercial trucks) accessing Berkeley Bowl and other nearby businesses as well as the nearby freeway interchange.

The 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension Pathway Phase II closes the gap between the end of the 9th Street Bike Boulevard and the existing 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard

Extension Pathway Phase I. This project will construct two sections of new shared use pathway, one between the end of 9th Street and Ashby Avenue, and the other between Ashby Avenue and Murray Street. The project will be coordinated with the proposed signal improvements at 9th/Ashby which are being designed and constructed using funds from the Caldecott Tunnel 4th Bore Project mitigation settlement. Phase II completes the connection between West Berkeley and Emeryville by providing a continuous off-street route from the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard across Ashby Avenue connecting to the Emeryville Greenway.

BACKGROUND

The 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension (Phase I and II) is a proposed bikeway connecting Berkeley's 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard to the Emeryville Greenway. The project closes the existing gap in bikeways between the intersection of Heinz and 9th Streets in West Berkeley and the Emeryville City limit, following the former Union Pacific railroad right-of-way. Upon completion, the project will provide a direct and protected bicycle and pedestrian crossing of Ashby Avenue offering cyclists an unbroken, regional route through Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, and into Oakland.

Council first approved the concept of the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension with adoption of the City's Bicycle Plan in April of 2000. Also in 2000, the City of Berkeley was awarded \$398,250 from the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program and \$51,750 in State Transportation Improvement Program funds for this project. In 2001, \$135,000 in Transportation Development Act Article 3 funding was allocated to the project. In 2003, the City was awarded a \$500,000 construction grant from Caltrans' Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) for the project. In 2005, the project was awarded \$1,034,000 in Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Program funding. City staff, with the support of design consultants, completed design for the project in 2011 and then bid and constructed the project in 2012.

The Phase II project will be coordinated with the proposed signal improvements at 9th/Ashby which are being designed and constructed using funds from the Caldecott Tunnel 4th Bore Project mitigation settlement. This signal project will provide a pedestrian and bicycle pathway crossing of Ashby, protected from conflicting vehicle movements along busy Ashby Avenue.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The project in this grant application is designed to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and convenience, and thus increase the number of Berkeley residents and visitors walking and biking. Increasing cycling and walking is the number 2 goal under the Transportation and Land Use section of the Climate Action Plan. The Plan sets the goal of reducing transportation emissions 33% below 2000 levels by 2020 and 80% by 2050, and states that transportation modes such as public transit, walking, and cycling must become the primary means of fulfilling our mobility needs in order to meet these goals.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Active Transportation Program funding will allow the City to address a critical local and regional bikeway gap between West Berkeley and Emeryville. In addition to the public outreach conducted as part of the development of both the 2000 and 2005 Berkeley Bicycle Plans, the project in this application has been reviewed and thoroughly vetted with stakeholders such as the Bicycle Subcommittee of the Berkeley Transportation Commission and Bike East Bay. Not approving the application would mean foregoing at least \$850,250 in potential grant funding.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City could choose not to apply for these funds, and this important bikeway gap would likely remain unfunded.

CONTACT PERSON

Farid Javandel, Transportation Division Manager, Public Works, 981-7061
Eric Anderson, Associate Transportation Planner, Public Works, 981-7062

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

GRANT APPLICATION: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FOR 9TH STREET
BICYCLE BOULEVARD EXTENSION PATHWAY PHASE II

WHEREAS, the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard currently terminates just south of Heinz Street adjacent to the Berkeley Bowl West; and

WHEREAS, Phase I of the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension Pathway was completed in June 2012 and consists of a shared-use pathway on the south side of Ashby between Murray Street at the Fire Warehouse and the Emeryville border; and

WHEREAS, the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension Pathway Phase II closes the gap between the end of the 9th Street Bike Boulevard and the existing 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension Pathway Phase I; and

WHEREAS, state Active Transportation Program funds can be used to make pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements to bicycle and pedestrian routes and fill gaps in those routes; and

WHEREAS, this project will construct two sections of new shared use pathway, one between the end of 9th Street and Ashby Avenue, and the other between Ashby Avenue and Murray Street, including landscaping, lighting, and wayfinding signs; and

WHEREAS, if awarded, the grant funds will be placed in a fund to be determined; and the City will provide matching funds in the amount of \$44,750, which will be available from the Measure B Bike/Ped Fund (Fund 392) beginning in FY 2016.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to submit a grant application to the Caltrans Active Transportation Program for completion of the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension Pathway Phase II for an amount up to \$850,250; and accept the grants awarded, and execute any resultant agreements and amendments.