



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 Applications: Active Transportation Program Funds for Pedestrian Plan Projects

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit grant applications to the Caltrans Active Transportation Program for pedestrian traffic safety improvements identified as 6 of the High Priority Projects within the Berkeley Pedestrian Master Plan, for a total amount of almost \$3 million.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

If awarded, these Active Transportation Program (ATP) applications would bring in almost \$3 million of competitive grant funding revenue in a fund to be determined for Berkeley Pedestrian Master Plan pedestrian traffic safety improvements.

The total estimated cost of the projects is \$3,079,500 of which \$153,975 represents City 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 Berkeley Pedestrian Master Plan was adopted by Council in June 2010. The Plan ranks the Top 100 Intersections in need of improvement in Berkeley based on safety, usage, and access to major destinations, and recommends improvements to the highest-need intersections, grouping them into 34 High Priority Projects.

Significant progress has been made toward implementing the High Priority Projects, and as of May 2015, the City has completed 1 of the 34 High-Priority Projects in the Plan; partially or substantially completed work on 4 other projects; and secured funding for and/or begun implementation on 6 others. Despite these efforts, people walking within Berkeley sometimes encounter undesirable traffic conditions that discourage walking, including arterial roadways with fast-moving traffic and challenging crossings, a lack of accessible pedestrian facilities, and other traffic and personal safety challenges.

These ATP applications address pedestrian safety needs based on key criteria, and the projects are identified 1) as High Priority Projects by the **Berkeley Pedestrian Master Plan**; and 2) as a **pedestrian safety priority through Council Referral**.*

1. Project #24: Pedestrian/bicycle crossing improvements including bulbouts and flashing pedestrian beacon at Sacramento and Virginia adjacent to North Berkeley BART; estimated \$825,000 (referrals report #11 at the top of the on-hold list, and can move to active list if funding is received and current projects are completed)
2. Project #4: Bulbouts at Sacramento and Addison, and at Sacramento and University; estimated \$952,500 (referral #1 to study pedestrian safety on Sacramento from University to Dwight)
3. Project #15: Bulbouts and signal retiming at San Pablo and Delaware; estimated \$252,000 (referral #15 on priority list, on hold, relates to Westbrae Traffic Plan)
4. Project #25: Bulbouts and signal retiming at San Pablo and Cedar; estimated \$225,000 (referral #16 on-hold, which calls for left turn signals on Cedar)
5. Project #21: Bulbouts at University and McGee; estimated \$375,000 (referral #5 on priority list, addresses study and recommendation for Traffic Controls on University Avenue from MLK to California; and referral #12 on hold, which is budgeting of recommended improvements)
6. Project #17: Bulbouts and flashing pedestrian beacons at University and Grant; estimated \$450,000 (referral #5 on priority list, addresses study and recommendation for Traffic Controls on University Avenue from MLK to California; and referral #12 on hold, which is budgeting of recommended improvements)

Grant and matching funds would pay for capital construction costs as well as City staff and consultant time to design and construct the improvements. The City currently lacks sufficient funding to address the traffic-related safety issues described in these High Priority Projects. As a consequence, fewer Berkeley residents and visitors may walk for transportation than otherwise would.

BACKGROUND

The Active Transportation Program (ATP) is a State program managed by Caltrans, which consolidates existing federal and state transportation programs, including the Transportation Alternatives Program, Bicycle Transportation Account, and State Safe Routes to School (SR2S), into a single program with a focus to make California a national leader in active transportation. The current ATP Cycle 2 program includes FY16/17, FY17/18, and FY18/19 funding years totaling \$360 million statewide.

* For Council referrals and Transportation priority projects, see Prioritization of City Council Referrals to Public Works Transportation: www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2015/04_Apr/Documents/2015-04-07_WS_Item_02_Prioritization_of_City_Council_Referrals_to_Transportation.aspx

Public Works Transportation has a history of successful pedestrian safety grant applications and project delivery for High Priority Projects from the Berkeley Pedestrian Plan. Previous funding awards include:

- \$2.2 million MTC One Bay Area grant which will enable implementation of Pedestrian Plan High Priority Projects #32 and #33
- \$2.3 million MTC One Bay Area grant which will enable implementation of Pedestrian Plan High Priority Projects #2
- \$681,000 Active Transportation Program Safe Routes to School grant which will enable implementation of Pedestrian Plan High Priority Project #11
- \$596,000 California Safe Routes to Schools Grant which will enable implementation of Pedestrian Plan High Priority Project #19
- \$898,660 California Safe Routes to Schools grant which enabled implementation of Pedestrian Plan High Priority Projects #1, #14 and #10
- \$498,820 Safe Routes to Transit grant which enabled implementation of Pedestrian Plan High Priority Projects #14 and #10

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Pedestrian Plan High Priority Projects in these grant applications are designed to improve pedestrian traffic safety, and thus increase the number of Berkeley residents and visitors walking. 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

ATP funding allows the City to address pedestrian traffic safety issues at locations citywide. The projects in these applications were reviewed and approved by the Traffic Engineering unit, thoroughly vetted with stakeholders, and reviewed by the Transportation Commission Pedestrian Subcommittee.

Extensive public outreach was conducted during the development of the Pedestrian Master Plan, and reinforced by recent Council referrals based on constituent requests. Completion of the projects identified for these applications would address 5 outstanding Council referrals. Not approving the application would mean foregoing almost \$3 million in potential grant funding.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City could choose not to apply for these funds, and these Pedestrian Plan High Priority Projects would likely remain unfunded. Staff could have considered applying for funds for a different set of improvements from the Berkeley Pedestrian Plan projects, but feels the Council Referrals based on constituent requests serve as the basis for the most

effective and competitive application. In addition, failure to apply for these grants will mean missing out on ATP funds for the next 3-5 years, potentially through FY2019.

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 APPLICATIONS: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FUNDS FOR
PRIORITY PEDESTRIAN PLAN PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Pedestrian Master Plan was adopted by the Berkeley City Council in June 2010 and identifies 34 High Priority Projects; and Public Works Transportation has a history of successful pedestrian safety grant applications and project delivery for High Priority Projects from the Berkeley Pedestrian Plan; and

WHEREAS, despite these efforts, people walking within Berkeley continue to encounter undesirable traffic conditions that discourage walking; and a number of Pedestrian Plan High Priority Projects were recently identified as pedestrian safety priorities in Council referrals; and

WHEREAS, the state Active Transportation Program funds can be used to make pedestrian safety improvements; and pedestrian sidewalk bulbouts, crosswalk safety beacons, signal retiming, and signing, pavement striping, and legends are among the potential safety improvement measures proposed; and

WHEREAS, if awarded, the grant funds will be placed in a fund to be determined for Berkeley Pedestrian Master Plan pedestrian traffic safety improvements; and the City will provide matching funds in the amount of \$153,975, 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 grant applications to the Caltrans Active Transportation Program for pedestrian traffic safety improvements from the Berkeley Pedestrian Master Plan for a total amount up to \$3 million; and accept the grants awarded, and execute any resultant agreements and amendments.

