



CITY OF SAN CARLOS

AGENDA CATEGORY:	
BUSINESS SESSION:	_____
CONSENT CALENDAR:	_____
PUBLIC HEARING:	_____
STUDY SESSION:	_____
_____:	_____

COUNCIL/RDA MEETING DATE: July 26, 2010

ITEM TITLE: Consider adopting a Resolution of Support for a grant application in the amount of \$2,220,810 to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s Transportation for Livable Communities program for the East Side Community/Transit Connectivity Project.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a Resolution of Support for a grant application in the amount of \$2,220,810 to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s (MTC) Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) program for the East Side Community/Transit Connectivity Project.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The City of San Carlos has the opportunity to receive a significant capital grant. On July 28, 2010, MTC will consider awarding a grant in the amount of \$2,220,810 to the City of San Carlos. The grant requires that 20% of project costs be covered by a local match, which amounts to \$549,810.

The non-federal match would come from two sources:

- a) San Carlos’ Proposition 1B allocation, in the amount of \$425,757.
- b) Redevelopment Agency Funds, in the amount of \$124,053.

Both sources of funds are readily available. The City has already received a check for its Proposition 1B allocation and has allocated it to the East Side Community/Transit Connectivity Project. The Redevelopment Agency (RDA) five-year implementation plan includes an improvement project on Old County Road, and a balance of \$50,000 is available in the project fund. The RDA unappropriated general fund has a sufficient balance for the rest of the local match, \$74,053.

The grant-funded improvements will have a positive effect on economic development in San Carlos.

BACKGROUND:

This action would follow upon previous action by the City Council and put the City in a position to receive a significant capital grant. On April 12, 2010, City Council authorized the grant application. MTC has scored the City’s project highly, and they are now requiring that a resolution be adopted committing the necessary non-federal match and stating the assurance that the City will complete the project.

The East Side Community Transit Connectivity Project would improve Old County Road and East San Carlos Avenue. It would:

- complete a continuous sidewalk on both streets
- add pedestrian bulbouts to shorten crossing distances and slow traffic
- complete wheelchair ramps at all corners
- widen the sidewalks to 7 feet where possible
- install decorative pavement at crosswalks
- plant new street trees
- install decorative, high-efficiency street lights
- install planting areas to treat stormwater
- place utilities underground on a portion of Old County Road
- complete a bicycle boulevard on East San Carlos Ave, which would include a new traffic signal at Industrial Road and new bicycle signage

On April 22nd, City Council considered the project and authorized a grant application. The final version of this application is posted on the City's web site at http://www.cityofsancarlos.org/publicworks/current_projects/east_side_community_transit_connectivity_project.asp.

The award letter from MTC (Attachment 1) requested that the City consider two design and/or scope modification:

1. Where possible, reduce traffic lanes to 11 feet of width to give extra space to bike lanes and sharrows. This modification is acceptable. In fact, that was the design intent of the conceptual drawings.
2. At the intersection of East San Carlos Avenue and Old County Road, move the taxi stand out of the intersection to make the intersection "pedestrian realm". This scope change may be possible, depending on whether the Transit Village and the Peninsula Rail Project go forward and how they are designed. The "taxi stand" currently serves an important role for shuttle vans and drop-off activity in addition to providing access to taxis. The Transit Village project is anticipated to create a new multi-modal transit center south of the existing historic depot, and it is designed to serve taxis, shuttle vans and drop-off activity, which would take the place of the existing loading zone on Old County Road. The Peninsula Rail Project could make it possible to access the multi-modal transit center from Old County Road, which would make the transit center even more functional because shuttle vans primarily serve businesses on the east side of the railroad.

In adopting the resolution, City Council would be committing staff resources to an aggressive schedule (Attachment 2). The key tasks include forming an underground utility district, selecting a design consultant, complying with federal-aid procedures, preliminary design and community input, preparing plans and specifications, advertising for bids, awarding a contract, and constructing the improvements. MTC's deadline for obligating the funds is April 30, 2012. The schedule is achievable, but the time commitment will limit the number of other projects that can be undertaken over the next two years.

Several key issues will need to be resolved during preliminary design, including the potential loss of parking on Old County Road and East San Carlos Avenue. As the application was being finalized, an estimate of parking impacts was prepared (Attachment 3). It shows that a total of 132 spaces would be eliminated by the project. The areas affected would be on the west side of Old County Road and on the south side of East San Carlos Avenue. Two property owners who had received notice of the proposed grant application have expressed concerns about parking impacts. The trade-offs between parking, lane width, sidewalks and bikeways will be discussed during the design process using a series of community meetings and consideration by the Transportation and Circulation Commission. After vetting the issues through the

community input process, the preliminary design will be brought to the City Council for consideration.

Many members of the community are interested in this project. Letters of support were received from the City/County Association of Government, the Chamber of Commerce, the Greater East San Carlos Neighborhood Association, Legacy Partners, the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, San Carlos Green, the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, SamTrans, and Senator S. Joseph Simitian. If MTC approves the grant on July 28, 2010, as anticipated, a public announcement will be made and project supporters will be contacted.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternatives available to the City Council include:

1. That the City Council adopt a Resolution of Support for a grant application in the amount of \$2,220,810 to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) program for the East Side Community/Transit Connectivity Project.
2. That the City decline the grant application.
3. Provide alternative direction to staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Weil, Director of Public Works

Approved for submission by:

Mark Weiss, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Award Letter
2. Preliminary Schedule
3. Parking Impact Study

Resolution of Local Support

STP/CMAQ Funding

Resolution No. _____

Authorizing the filing of an application for federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) and/or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funding and committing the necessary non-federal match and stating the assurance to complete the project.

WHEREAS, the City of San Carlos (herein referred to as APPLICANT) is submitting an application to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for \$2,221,000 in funding from the federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) and/or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program for the East Side Community Transit Connectivity Project (herein referred to as PROJECT) for the MTC Resolution, No. 3925, New Federal Surface Transportation Act (FY 2009-10, FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12) Cycle 1 STP/CMAQ Program: Project Selection Criteria, Policy, Procedures and Programming (herein referred to as PROGRAM); and

WHEREAS, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA) (Public Law 109-59, August 10, 2005) authorized the Surface Transportation Program (23 U.S.C. § 133) and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) (23 U.S.C. § 149) through September 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, SAFETEA has been extended through December 31, 2010 pursuant to Public Law 111-147, March 18, 2010 and may be subsequently extended pending enactment of successor legislation for continued funding; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to SAFETEA, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, eligible project sponsors wishing to receive federal Surface Transportation Program and/or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (STP/CMAQ) funds for a project shall submit an application first with the appropriate Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), for review and inclusion in the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is the MPO for the nine counties of the San Francisco Bay region; and

WHEREAS, MTC has adopted a Regional Project Funding Delivery Policy (MTC Resolution No. 3606, revised) that sets out procedures governing the application and use of STP/CMAQ funds; and

WHEREAS, APPLICANT is an eligible project sponsor for STP/CMAQ funds; and

WHEREAS, as part of the application for STP/CMAQ funding, MTC requires a resolution adopted by the responsible implementing agency stating the following:

- 1) the commitment of necessary local matching funds of at least 11.47%; and
- 2) that the sponsor understands that the STP/CMAQ funding is fixed at the programmed amount, and therefore any cost increase cannot be expected to be funded with additional STP/CMAQ funds; and

- 3) that the project will comply with the procedures specified in Regional Project Funding Delivery Policy (MTC Resolution No. 3606, revised); and
- 4) the assurance of the sponsor to complete the project as described in the application, and if approved, as included in MTC's TIP; and
- 5) that the project will comply with all the project-specific requirements as set forth in the PROGRAM.; and
- 6) that the project (transit only) will comply with MTC Resolution No. 3866, which sets forth the requirements of MTC's Transit Coordination Implementation Plan to more efficiently deliver transit projects in the region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the APPLICANT is authorized to execute and file an application for funding for the PROJECT under the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) of SAFETEA, any extensions of SAFETEA or any successor legislation for continued funding ; and be it further

RESOLVED that the APPLICANT by adopting this resolution does hereby state that:

1. APPLICANT will provide (\$444,200) in non-federal matching funds; and
2. APPLICANT understands that the STP/CMAQ funding for the project is fixed at the MTC approved programmed amount, and that any cost increases must be funded by the APPLICANT from other funds, and that APPLICANT does not expect any cost increases to be funded with additional STP/CMAQ funding; and
3. APPLICANT understands the funding deadlines associated with these funds and will comply with the provisions and requirements of the Regional Project Funding Delivery Policy (MTC Resolution No. 3606, as revised); and
4. PROJECT will be implemented as described in the complete application and in this resolution and, if approved, for the amount programmed in the MTC federal TIP; and
5. APPLICANT (for a transit project only) agrees to comply with the requirements of MTC's Transit Coordination Implementation Plan as set forth in MTC Resolution 3866; and
6. APPLICANT and the PROJECT will comply with the requirements as set forth in the program; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED that APPLICANT is an eligible sponsor of STP/CMAQ funded projects; and be it further

RESOLVED that APPLICANT is authorized to submit an application for STP/CMAQ funds for the PROJECT; and be it further

RESOLVED that there is no legal impediment to APPLICANT making applications for the funds; and be it further

RESOLVED that there is no pending or threatened litigation that might in any way adversely affect the proposed PROJECT, or the ability of APPLICANT to deliver such PROJECT; and be it further

RESOLVED that APPLICANT authorizes its Executive Director, General Manager, or designee to execute and file an application with MTC for STP/CMAQ funding for the PROJECT as referenced in this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be transmitted to the MTC in conjunction with the filing of the application; and be it further

RESOLVED that the MTC is requested to support the application for the PROJECT

described in the resolution and to include the PROJECT, if approved, in MTC's TIP.

* * * * *

I, Christine D. Boland, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of San Carlos at a scheduled meeting thereof held on the 26th day of July, 2010 by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

NOES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSENT, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

City Clerk of the City of San Carlos

APPROVED:

MAYOR of the City of San Carlos