



City of Arts & Innovation

Transportation Board

TO: TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DATE: JANUARY 4, 2023

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

WARDS: 1

SUBJECT: FAIRMOUNT PARK PEDESTRIAN ZONE PILOT PROJECT

ISSUE:

Receive an oral presentation from the Public Works Department regarding the proposed Fairmount Park Pedestrian Zone Pilot Project

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Transportation Board receive and file the presentation.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Riverside has participated in the Active Transportation Program (ATP) since its inception in 2014, seeking funding for important active transportation projects through the submission of multiple grant applications during the first five calls for projects. To date, the City has been successful in securing millions of dollars in federal and state grants for five projects under ATP Cycles I, II, and III benefiting the City and its resident by constructing critical pedestrian and cyclist safety and mobility enhancements.

At the June 7, 2022 City Council Meeting, the City Council authorized the submittal of five (5) grant applications under the ATP Cycle VI totaling \$27,550,00. One of the grant applications was for the Fairmount Park Pedestrian Zone Quick Build Project, which intended to convert the northbound Redwood Drive vehicular travel lane into a pedestrian & bicycle only shared path.

Unfortunately, the initial grant program evaluation scores from Caltrans did not include an award recommendation for this quick-build grant application. The final list of ATP Cycle VI projects awarded by Caltrans is anticipated to be finalized in the Spring of 2023.

Thus, the City would like to engage in a pilot project to obtain feedback and input from the community and ultimately includes this public outreach component as part of a future grant application re-submittal for consideration.

DISCUSSION:

Redwood Drive is a roadway within Fairmount Park that connects the north and south portions of the park across Lake Evans. On the southerly end are the Rose Garden, Southern Playground, Amphitheater, and parking, and to the north is the Universal Playground, additional parking, and the lawn bowling green. There is no connecting sidewalk or pedestrian

path at this time and pedestrians walk in the roadway to cross Lake Evans. This pilot project would convert the northbound vehicle lane to a pedestrian and bicycle zone using temporary materials. The pedestrian and bicycle zone would allow easy access for those who currently share the roadway with vehicles. Additional routes to head northbound across the lake are currently available for vehicles, but not for pedestrians. On a representative weekday, 535 pedestrians and 142 bicycles were measured crossing Lake Evans; 931 northbound vehicles and 1,565 southbound vehicles were measured. The measured usage by pedestrians and bicycles is nearly equivalent to the number of motorists using the northbound lane (proposed to be converted to pedestrian zone). The pilot project would provide a meaningful demonstration project with minimal impact to vehicles.

Public Works staff are collaborating with the Parks & Recreation Department and Office of Communications Division to conduct this Fairmount Park Pedestrian Zone pilot project during the week of February 10-17, 2023. This specific week is recommended by the Parks & Recreation Department as there are several community events planned that would maximize the community usage of the pilot project and hopefully will result in increased feedback from the community.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This item contributes to the Strategic Priority No. 6 – Infrastructure, Mobility and Connectivity and Goals No. 6.1, 6.2 and 6.4.

This project aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – The Fairmount Park Pedestrian Zone was one of five project applications submitted as part of the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) Cycle VI Program following community meetings. This project is supported by the priority objectives of the Riverside PACT. The City's goal is to serve the public interest, benefiting the City's diverse populations, and meeting the needs of the community based on their feedback.
2. **Equity** – The purpose of the pilot project is to encourage a healthy lifestyle and enhance public health by increasing safety and mobility of biking and walking. The proposed pilot project will serve park users Citywide.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The City of Riverside is a prudent steward of public funds and ensures responsible management of the City's financial resources by implementing improvements on its existing infrastructure and utilizing low-cost temporary materials.
4. **Innovation** – Riverside is inventive and timely in meeting the community's changing needs and prepares for the future through collaborative partnerships and adaptive processes. The proposed pilot project consisted of multi-departmental collaboration including Parks & Recreation Department, Public Works Department and Office of Communications Division in order to provide a benefit to the community. The City's proactive approach in conducting the pilot project will provide a glimpse of a future permanent condition contingent upon community support and available funding resources.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – The proposed pilot project aims to increase the

proportion of biking and walking to connect residents to economic & educational opportunities, improve community resilience, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of labor and materials is estimated to be \$9,600. Funding is available in the existing Public Works Department budget, Signing Supplies account number 4110100-424143, to cover this cost.

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Approved by: Gilbert Hernandez, Public Works Director

Attachments:

1. Site Map
2. Aerial Map
3. Existing Photos
4. Presentation