



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

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TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: MAY 7, 2019**

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

**SUBJECT: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS ACTIVE
TRANSPORTATION PLAN GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000; LOCAL
CASH MATCH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$125,000**

ISSUE:

Accept a grant award from Southern California Association of Governments in the amount of \$250,000 for the combined Riverside Active Transportation Plan and Pedestrian Target Hardening Plan; authorize a Local Cash Match in the amount of \$125,000; and authorize the use of the remaining Active Transportation Plan funds in the amount of \$75,000 to plan for three open streets events.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Accept a grant award from Southern California Association of Governments in the amount of \$250,000 for the collaborative development of a combined Active Transportation Plan and Pedestrian Target Hardening Plan;
2. Authorize a Local Cash Match in the amount of \$125,000 from the Active Transportation Plan Account 9902333-440313 (Measure A Funds);
3. Authorize the use of \$75,000 in remaining Active Transportation Plan funds from the Active Transportation Plan Account 9902333-440313 (Measure A Funds) and approve the transfer of funds to a newly created Open Streets Planning Account to be used for the preparation of logistics plans for three open streets events across the City of Riverside; and
4. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute all grant documents for the combined Active Transportation Plan and Pedestrian Target Hardening Plan project, including making minor and non-substantive changes.

BACKGROUND:

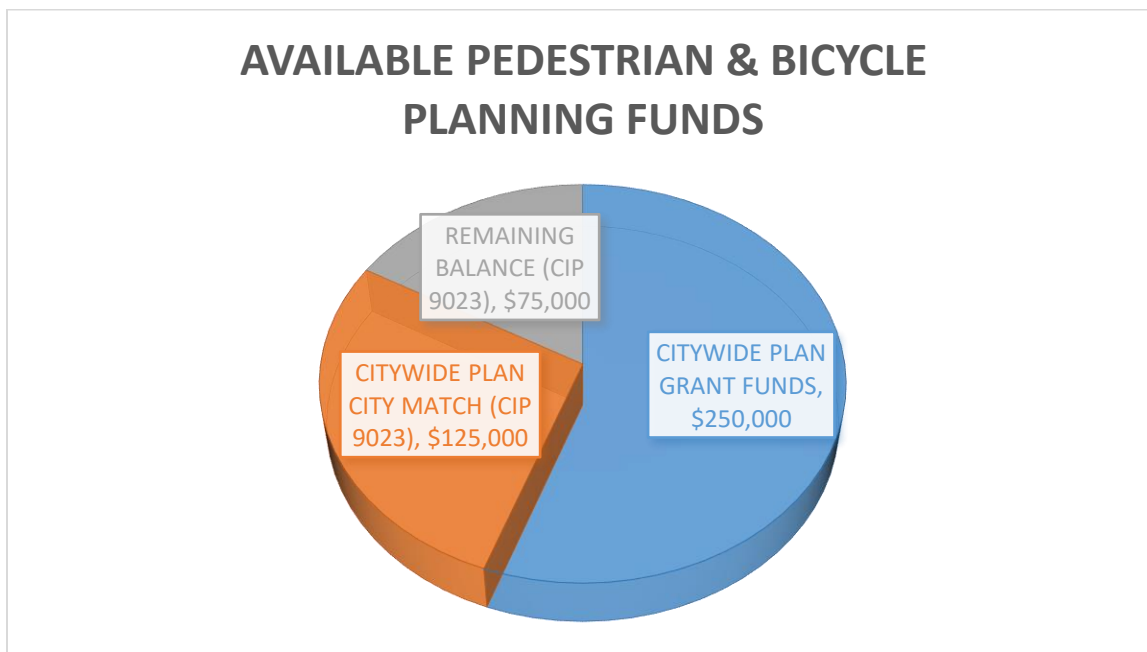
On November 18, 2016, the Public Works Department submitted a grant proposal to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to prepare a Citywide Active Transportation Plan

(ATP). The City received subsequent notice that the grant proposal was successful, but that the funding window of the grant was uncertain and had to be extended.

In order to remain competitive for State infrastructure funding, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure plans must be kept up to date. For this reason, the Public Works Department established Capital Improvement Program Project (CIP) 9023, allocating \$200,000 for the preparation of a Citywide Active Transportation Plan.

On July 24, 2018, the City Council authorized Public Works staff to submit a second grant proposal through the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to prepare a 'Pedestrian Target Hardening Plan'. This plan is similar to the Citywide ATP, but would focus on examining critical areas of the City to address safety vulnerabilities where large numbers of pedestrians gather.

In early 2019, SCAG informed Public Works that both requested projects could be combined into a single planning document and accommodated with an allocation of \$250,000 in SCAG funding, plus a City match of \$125,000. By accepting SCAG's funding proposal, a significant savings in staff time is anticipated as SCAG would secure the selection of a planning consultant and manage and fund the project directly. Preparation of the plan would commence in summer of 2019.



DISCUSSION:

Both the Active Transportation Plan and the Pedestrian Target Hardening Plan are important to provide connectivity and safety to pedestrians and bicyclists – our most vulnerable roadway users. Since the City did not initially have a firm commitment for grant funding of the Citywide Active Transportation Master Plan, \$200,000 in Measure A Funds were allocated for CIP 9023 in 2018 to prepare the plan in-house. Public Works did not anticipate funding the Pedestrian Target Hardening Plan in-house.

SCAG's offer to provide combined grant funding in the amount of \$250,000 with an aggressive plan preparation schedule and their project management services comes with a request of a City cash match of \$125,000. Collaboration with SCAG will magnify the City's set aside funds and result in a significant savings in staff time. A total of \$375,000 will be spent on the combined plan.

With a cash match of \$125,000, there is \$75,000 remaining in funding available from CIP 9023. The Public Works Department requests to use these funds to propose another pedestrian and bicycle related planning effort – the preparation of logistics plans for three individual ‘open streets’ events across the City of Riverside. The logistics plan for each open streets event is anticipated to cost \$25,000.

Open streets events invite pedestrians and bicyclists to experience a street that has been closed to vehicular traffic for a day. The events typically include vendors, food trucks, music, and art throughout the closure, and are carried out in partnership with the businesses fronting the event footprint. Key intersections remain as ‘crossing points’ for vehicles to keep the disruption to local traffic at a minimum. Riverside’s events would be modeled after the successful ‘CicLAvia’ open streets events popularized by the City of Los Angeles, which in turn took inspiration from the Columbian Ciclovía events that have been hosted since 1974. More information on these events can be found at: www.ciclavia.org.

The Public Works department envisions the first of the three open streets events would be planned for University Avenue between Canyon Crest Drive and Market Street. The development of a plan for this event will be used as a basis for securing additional grant and sponsorship funding to host the full event.

This first open streets event would serve as a pilot project for future events. Following execution of the first event, Public Works staff would consult with the City Council and bring forward a recommendation regarding planning of the next two open streets events. The locations and details of the remaining two events will be informed by lessons learned from the first event. Public Works intent is for each event to serve a distinct set of neighborhoods across the City.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of this action is \$250,000 in grant revenue to be allocated and managed by the Southern California Association of Governments for the development of a combined Active Transportation Plan and Pedestrian Target Hardening Plan. A Local Cash Match in the amount of \$125,000 from the Active Transportation Plan Account 9902333-440313 (CIP 9023, Measure A) would be provided to SCAG to bring the total plan funding to \$375,000. The remaining \$75,000 in City Active Transportation Plan funding account 9902333-440313 (CIP 9023, Measure A) would be transferred to a newly created Open Streets Planning account for the preparation of plans (\$25,000 each) to host three open streets events across the City of Riverside.

Prepared by: Kris Martinez, Public Works Director
Certified as to
availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

- Attachments:
1. SCAG Cash Match Letter
 2. CIP Project 9023 Summary
 3. Presentation