



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS & PARKS, RECREATION, WARDS: 6 AND 7
& COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENTS

SUBJECT: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM CYCLE V GRANT APPLICATIONS –
CONNECTING FIVE POINTS AND MITCHELL AVENUE TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS
TOTALING \$14,000,000

ISSUE:

Authorize the submittal of two grant applications to the California Transportation Commission to enact pedestrian network improvements surrounding the five points intersection at La Sierra Avenue & Hole Avenue and construct the Mitchell Avenue multiuse trail improvements, both projects totaling a combined \$14,000,000.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Authorize the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department to submit an Active Transportation Program Cycle V grant application to the California Department of Transportation in the amount of \$7,000,000 for the Mitchell Avenue Trail improvements between Campbell Avenue and Hole Avenue; and
2. Authorize the Public Works Department to submit an Active Transportation Program Cycle V grant application to the California Department of Transportation in the amount of \$7,000,000 for improvements at La Sierra Avenue at Hole Avenue, five points intersection, to construct high-visibility crosswalks, lighted crosswalk enhancements, a pedestrian plaza, and improve sidewalk connectivity in the surrounding neighborhoods.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of the State of California's Active Transportation Program is to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation by achieving the following goals:

1. Increase the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking;
2. Increase safety and mobility for non-motorized users;
3. Advance the active transportation efforts of regional agencies to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals;
4. Enhance public health;

5. Ensure that disadvantaged communities fully share in the benefits of the program; and
6. Provide a broad spectrum of projects to benefit many types of active transportation users.

On March 25, 2020, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) announced the ATP Cycle V Call for Projects. ATP Cycle V is expected to include approximately \$440 million in federal and state grants. The funding/programming years are expected to run for four year, from 2021/2022 to 2024/2025.

On October 1, 2019 the City Council recommended that staff prepare and submit an Active Transportation Program Cycle V grant application reflective of community engagement.

In Spring of 2020 the Western Riverside Council of Governments retained a consultant to assist City Staff in the preparation of ATP Cycle V grant applications.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Riverside has participated in the ATP grant program since its inception in 2014, seeking funding for important active transportation projects through the submission of multiple grant applications during the first three 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.

In preparation for the current ATP Cycle V call for projects, staff collaborated with residents and community partners including the Southern California Association of Governments, the Riverside Police Officers Association, Bike Riverside, the Riverside Transit Agency, the Riverside Police Department, the Riverside County Transportation Commission, the Riverside Public Library, the La Sierra Volleyball Team, California State Assembly District 60, the Riverside University Health System, along with several local businesses to host a kickoff event titled “Connecting Five Points” to envision ATP project components which would heighten pedestrian and bicyclist safety and promote walking and cycling near the five points intersection of La Sierra Avenue at Hole/Pierce Avenue. Nearly 100 survey responses were collected and analyzed. Staff validated these findings and proposed approach with the Mujeres Activas en La Salud community group.



Figure 1: A resident identifies neighborhood transportation needs with Staff

The Public Works grant application will consist of the following improvements totaling up to \$7M:

- Conversion of five intersections to high-visibility continental crosswalks along La Sierra Avenue
- Construction of crossing improvements at La Sierra Avenue at Hole Avenue
- Construction of pedestrian plaza improvements within the Bushnell Avenue Cul-De-Sac, including decorative pavement, removable bollards, street amenities/furniture, a bicycle corral, and contactless water bottle refill station
- Construction of sidewalk along: Wells Avenue from Hole Avenue to just east of Tyler Street, one side of Doane Avenue from Bushnell Avenue to Hole Avenue, one side of Hiers Avenue from Bushnell Avenue to Hole Avenue, one side of Mitchell Avenue from Bushnell Avenue to Hole Avenue, and a short missing segment along Jones Avenue that will complete a connection to Myra Linn Elementary School.

The Public Works Department would engage the community regarding the project scope and assess right-of-way dedication in order to expand some of the sidewalk connectivity projects prior to designing and bidding the work.

The Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department grant application will consist of the following improvements totaling up to \$7M:

- Construction of the Mitchell Avenue Trail between Campbell Avenue and Hole Avenue adjacent to Arlington Valley Water Channel; completion of this segment will benefit the local community and leverage future projects to expand the decomposed granite trail connects between Hole Avenue and Arlington Avenue, a nearly two mile stretch that will eventually facilitate access to the Santa Ana River Trail.



Figure 2: A completed section of the Mitchell Ave. Trail

The full scope of each project is pending final estimates; however, in order to stay within the defined “medium project” range and remain competitive for local funds the projects will be capped at \$7M in total project cost.

The proposed projects will benefit local communities and by making vital improvements which will elevate safety levels, create pedestrian & equestrian facilities, and heighten driver awareness. City Staff is requesting authorization from the City Council to submit two grant applications, each totaling \$7,000,000.

The grant application submitted by the Public Works Department proposes to include a 12% match, totaling up to \$840,000. Some of the matching commitment may be completed using staff time to design the project.

The grant application submitted by the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department proposes to include a 10% match, totaling up to \$700,000. Just as with the Public Works Department submittal, some of this commitment may be made using staff time.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The estimated fiscal impacts of both projects including design, construction, construction engineering, and contingencies is estimated at \$7,000,000 per project, totaling \$14,000,000 for both projects. If successful, the ATP Cycle V grant funding will be used for the construction phase of each project, including construction engineering.

In order to compete for State and Federal funding, the Public Works Department is proposing to appropriate up to \$840,000 (12%) in local match (using Measure A, Gas Tax, or similar funds) towards the project. Public Works would return to City Council to program the funds upon grant award & acceptance.

Similarly, the Parks & Recreation Department is proposing to appropriate up to \$700,000 (10%) in matching funds. The Parks and Recreation local matching funds will be reimbursed with available bond proceeds once expenses are incurred. Bond proceeds are available at the trustee and will be appropriated upon award.

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