



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: MARCH 9, 2021

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM QUICK BUILD GRANT APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$763,319 FOR THE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF BICYCLIST AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY DEVICES AND IMPROVEMENTS

ISSUE:

Retroactive authorization of the submittal of a \$763,319 grant application to the Southern California Association of Governments, which falls under the Sustainable Communities Program Quick Build Projects facet of the program, for the acquisition and installation of proposed bicyclist and pedestrian safety devices and improvements.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council retroactively authorize the submittal of a grant application in the amount of \$763,319 to the Southern California Association of Governments Sustainable Communities Program to fund the purchase and installation of equipment and implementation of bicyclist and pedestrian safety improvement projects at 30 key locations throughout the City.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Works Department actively pursues grant funding as an alternative funding source and/or supplement to City funds to enable the pursuit of education, traffic, and pedestrian and cyclist safety improvement projects. These grants offer valuable, unique opportunities for local jurisdictions to compete for funding sources available through State, Federal, or other agencies to aid in covering the costs of select projects.

The purpose of the Southern California Association of Governments Sustainable Communities Program (SCAG-SCP) is to provide resources and direct technical assistance to jurisdictions to complete important local planning efforts and enable implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy. This grant application will be submitted under the Quick Build Project category which includes interim capital improvement projects that further the goals of the Active Transportation Program (ATP) and serve as design/build opportunities. These types of projects are also typically easily implemented, require minor construction activities, have low to moderate materials costs, respond to identified safety needs and/or implement safety treatments, and provide meaningful and quick benefits to the communities they serve.

DISCUSSION:

The Public Works Department recently prepared and submitted an SCAG-SCP grant application seeking funding for bicycle and pedestrian safety projects at 30 strategic locations throughout the City. Staff became aware of this important grant opportunity in late October 2020 and began reviewing grant requirements and guidelines and developing a list of suitable projects in early November 2020. Subsequently, project selection occurred and staff began preparing plans, exhibits, cost estimates, letters of support and other required information. As time lines to formulate and complete a competitive grant application were tight due to the application deadline of December 11, 2020 and all project details and cost estimates were not finalized until close to the grant submittal date, staff was unable to meeting Council report deadlines to seek approval of the grant application prior to submission.

The submitted Public Works SCAG-SCP grant application requested funding for the acquisition and installation of safety enhancing equipment and improvements including:

- Installation of Green Conflict Zone striping improvements where right-turn vehicular traffic intersects existing Class II Bike Lanes to heighten driver awareness of potential conflicts with cyclists and improve safety at 3 high traffic volume locations including:
 1. Westbound Third St. at Park Ave.;
 2. Westbound Alessandro Blvd. at Canyon Crest Dr.; and
 3. Northbound Trautwein Rd. at and approaching Alessandro Blvd.;
- Upgrade of existing pedestrian signals to High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) signals at 2 mid-block locations including:
 1. Martin Luther King Blvd. just west of Douglass Ave. adjacent to Bordwell Park and near Emerson Elementary School; and
 2. Adams St. just north of Brunswick Ave. adjacent to Adams Elementary School;
- Installation of LED Edge Lit Stop Signs on the major streets, the upgrade of existing standard crosswalks to continental striping, and the upgrade of ADA ramps where appropriate at 3 locations including:
 1. Mary St. at Marguerita Ave. in close proximity to Washington Park, Washington Elementary School, and a retail grocery / shopping center;
 2. Indiana Ave. at Racine Dr. in close proximity to Tyler Springs Senior Apts. and a small retail strip mall; and
 3. Lincoln Ave. at Irving St. adjacent to Arlington High School and in close proximity to Hawthorne Elementary School;
- Upgrade of existing standard pedestrian crossing warning signs at uncontrolled marked pedestrian crossings to Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) Systems, of marked crosswalks to continental striping where appropriate, and of ADA ramps where appropriate at 6 crossings including:
 1. Colorado Ave. at Monticello Ave. in close proximity to Jackson Elementary School;
 2. Palm Ave. at Shatto Pl. in close proximity to Riverside Adult School, Marcy Library, and Low Park;

3. Tyler St. at Chickasaw St. in close proximity to Harrison Elementary School and Tyler Springs Senior Apt. Complex;
 4. Fourteenth St. at Orange Grove Ave. in close proximity to RTA bus stops, County facilities, and Downtown Riverside;
 5. Orange St. at Eleventh St. adjacent to Riverside Police Department Orange Station and in close proximity to Riverside courthouses and Downtown Riverside; and
 6. Orange St. at Fourth St. adjacent to the Riverside Convention Center and Encore High School;
- Upgrade of existing standard Stop Signs to LED Edge Lit Stop Signs at 9 high activity locations including:
 1. Rivera St. at Strong St. in close proximity to Patricia Beatty Elementary School;
 2. Linden Ave. at Rustin Ave. adjacent to REACH Leadership Academy and Grace United Methodist Church and in close proximity to the Islamic Center and University of California Riverside (UCR);
 3. Lincoln Ave. at Horace St. adjacent to Gage Middle School, the California School for the Deaf, and Educational Options Center;
 4. Orange Terrace Pkwy. at Abrams Dr. adjacent to Orange Terrace Park, Library, and Community Center and in close proximity to Benjamin Franklin Elementary School;
 5. Krameria Ave. at Alta Cresta Ave. adjacent to Frank Miller Middle School;
 6. Polk St. at Cass St. in close proximity to Collett Elementary and La Sierra High Schools;
 7. Fillmore St. at Dorset Dr. in close proximity to Orrenmaa Elementary and Hillcrest High Schools;
 8. Rutland Ave. at Sylvan Ave. adjacent to Terrace Elementary School and in close proximity to Rutland Park; and
 9. Gramercy Pl. at Jones Ave. adjacent to La Granada Elementary School.
 - Installation of solar powered speed feedback sign at 5 locations:
 1. Orange St. south of Chase Rd. adjacent to Reid Park and on the route to Fremont Elementary School;
 2. Blaine St. west of Valencia Hill Dr. in close proximity to Highland Elementary School and UCR;
 3. Streeter Ave. south of Mountain View Ave. approaching Mt. View Elementary School;
 4. California Ave. east of Jackson St. approaching Don Lorenzi Park and on the routes to Hunt Park, Monroe Elementary and Jackson Elementary Schools; and
 5. Colorado Ave. near Larkspur Rd. in close proximity to Jackson Elementary and Adams Elementary Schools;
 - Upgrade of existing traditional pedestrian crossings and traffic signal equipment, controller, and conflict monitor at the intersection of Tenth St. and Orange St. to convert the crossings to diagonal; and

- Installation of temporary improvements consisting of decorative barricades and potential swing gate to create a pedestrian zone on Redwood Dr. linking north and south Fairmount Park.

Receipt of grant funding, if awarded, would provide the necessary funds to acquire and install equipment and implement critical improvements to create safer walking and cycling environments as well as upgrade and expand the City's pedestrian and cyclist facilities. The proposed project strives to augment accessibility and safety, increase utilization, enhance motorist awareness and compliance, and ultimately reduce collisions and injuries in accordance with the City's existing Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Enhancement (RBPSE) and PACT Plans. These plans calls for utilization of the latest technologies, safety devices, and measures to enhance and update current transportation infrastructure to increase safety for walking and bicycling modes of transportation. Anticipated project benefits include collision prevention, safety encouraged healthy transportation adaptation, extension of the City's pedestrian and bikeway networks, and increased accessibility to planned transit and car share stations.

FISCAL IMPACT:

SCAG-SCP grant funds awarded are provided on a reimbursement basis. The Public Works Department will return to City Council to request appropriation of these funds should notice of grant award be received. The estimated total project costs including design, construction, installation, and completion of before and after traffic studies to assess project impacts are estimated at \$763,319. No local matching funds are required.

Prepared by:	Kris Martinez, Public Works Director
Certified as to	
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