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DATE: February 19, 2008
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Director of Public Works
SUBJECT: Community-Based Transportation Planning Grant

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the attached resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application and, if granted, enter into an agreement with Caltrans for the purpose of administering a Community-Based Transportation Planning Grant.

BACKGROUND:

Caltrans has made available approximately \$3 million statewide for community-based transportation planning activities. These grant funds are to be used to finance coordinated transportation and land use planning projects that encourage community involvement and partnership. Projects must support livable, sustainable community concepts with a transportation or mobility objective, and promote community identity and quality of life. The final product is expected to be a documented study, plan, or concept that can be used by the applicant to further smart growth and a community's sustainability.

Staff feels that one approach towards achieving this goal would be to encourage additional walking and biking to school by elementary and middle school children. An important first step in this process would be preparation of a Safe Routes to Schools Master Plan that would identify a series of public education activities and capital improvements that would foster additional walking and bicycling to school.

Therefore, staff has applied for a grant to prepare a Safe Routes to Schools Master Plan. The total grant request is \$247,600, which represents 80 percent of the total project costs. Approximately half of the required matching funds would come from City and Hayward Unified School District (HUSD) in-kind services. The remaining funds would come from the City's Measure B pedestrian and bicycle allocation. Before Caltrans considers our grant application, we are required to provide a resolution authorizing a representative to enter into the appropriate agreements with Caltrans in order to carry out the project, if the application is approved.

DSCUSSION:

One of the most important features in a community's sustainability is the encouragement to use alternative transportation modes. In the past, staff has applied for Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Program funding on both the federal and state levels for projects that would foster increased bicycling and walking by school children. Staff has been successful in securing funding to construct sidewalks on Baumberg Avenue near Lorin Eden Elementary School and has recently applied for funding for sidewalks near Harder Elementary School.

An impediment to being more successful in these grant requests is the lack of a community-based SR2S Master Plan. The SR2S scoring criterion usually looks at community involvement as an important factor in determining whether or not to approve a project. There is no such plan in Hayward; thus, there is usually no community planning basis for a project application. As a result, Hayward has been at a disadvantage when competing for funds against those jurisdictions with such master plans.

This community-based transportation planning grant would be a cooperative effort with HUSD and would foster a cooperative approach between the City and HUSD to promote walking and biking to school. Moreover, the efforts to promote alternative transportation modes are consistent with the City's "Keep Hayward Clean and Green" initiative.

The grant application proposes to finance a consultant to work with the City and HUSD to prepare a SR2S Master Plan for the 34 elementary and middle schools in Hayward. Community-based and private schools would also be involved in the planning process. A key benefit would be that the project helps to continue the positive working relationship between City and HUSD staffs. An example of this collaborative effort is the annual development of projects that could be submitted for the SR2S funding cycles. HUSD has always been in support of these efforts.

A significant feature of this project would be community involvement. Since it is a community-based plan, it would be important to solicit and receive input from parents, students, teachers, administrators, the Hayward Police Department, and the general public relative to identifying improvements that would help to foster increased walking and biking to school. The scope of work proposes that the selected consultant conduct up to five community meetings and other meetings, as needed, with major stakeholders.

The expected outcome of this project is two-fold. The desired product from this study is a Safe Routes to Schools Master Plan that would include:

- Public education and other information to promote increased walking and biking to school. Distribution to students could be through existing mechanisms, thus requiring no additional resources from the City or the school district. An important component would be Safe Routes to Schools maps outlining the safest walking and biking routes to schools. In addition, information would be provided to parents on safe ways to drop off and pick up their children.
- A list of capital projects to fill infrastructure gaps, such as new bicycle or pedestrian facilities. Inclusion of such projects as a result of a community-driven plan would immediately increase

the City's competitiveness for future Safe Routes to Schools or other appropriate grant funding programs.

Specific benefits to be realized from implementation of the Safe Routes to Schools Master Plan would include:

- Safer and healthier communities – reduction of traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions that would aid in addressing climate change issues.
- Improved pedestrian and bicycle access to schools, including greater public awareness of the resources available to promote walking and biking to school.
- Greater community involvement in program and project development, and improved outreach to low income members of the community.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City has applied for a grant in the amount of \$247,600, which is 80 percent of the total \$309,500 project cost. The remaining \$62,000 would be provided by a local match. About half of this match (\$30,900) would be in-kind services provided by City and HUSD staff and resources (such as staff time, meeting rooms, speakers, printing, etc.). It is recommended that the remaining \$31,000 be provided from Measure B Tax (Bicycle and Pedestrian) Fund in the Capital Improvement Program. Consequently, there will be no negative impact on the City's General Fund.

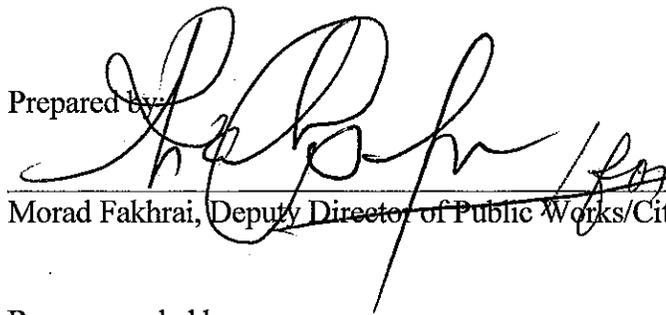
PUBLIC CONTACT

This grant was developed in consultation with HUSD staff. Some of the project components were based upon previous contact with the community, such as neighborhood meetings and the Police Department's Citizens Academy. As noted above, community involvement would be a major initiative of this project.

SCHEDULE

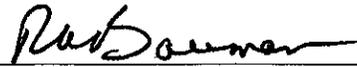
If the grant is approved by Caltrans, the project may begin in the latter half of 2008 and be completed by late 2010.

Prepared by:



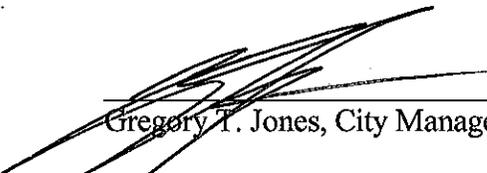
Morad Fakhrai, Deputy Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Recommended by:



Robert A. Bauman, Director of Public Works

Approved by:



Gregory T. Jones, City Manager

Attachments: Draft Resolution

DRAFT

NH
2/5/08

HAYWARD CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 08-

Introduced by Council Member _____

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO
SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND ENTER INTO AN
AGREEMENT WITH CALTRANS TO ADMINISTER A
COMMUNITY-BASED TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
GRANT**

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hayward that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file on behalf of the City of Hayward an application with Caltrans and all other documents related to administering a Community-Based Transportation Planning Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Caltrans in conjunction with the filing of the application.

IN COUNCIL, HAYWARD, CALIFORNIA _____, 2008

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:
MAYOR:

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk of the City of Hayward

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney of the City of Hayward