



**Council Meeting: February 26, 2008**

**SUBJECT: California Department of Transportation Planning Grants  
Fiscal Year 2008-09 - Authorization to Submit Grant Applications**

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

This report recommends that the City Council authorize staff to submit grant applications for Federal and State grant funds through the California Department of Transportation (referred to as Caltrans). The subject Transportation Planning Grants consist of four types that generally seek funding of community based projects to enhance livability, as well as promote walking, cycling and the use of public transit. Staff has identified two candidate projects that correspond to the requirements of two of the four grant types, namely the "Community-Based Transportation Planning Grant" and the "Partnership Planning Grant". Each of the two aforementioned grant types has a cap of \$300,000 and requires 20% local match of non-state and/or non-federal funds. Budgeting of the necessary local match would be carried out at such time that a grant is approved.

**BACKGROUND**

The general purpose of the Transportation Planning Grants program is to integrate transportation planning, land-use planning and community values in order to achieve strategic and sustainable growth. The Community-Based and the Partnership Planning grants provide funding for projects that deploy livable community concepts such as the provision of housing and jobs near public transit, encouragement of higher density and mixed-use developments, enhancement of street lighting and landscaping, establishment of community gathering areas, provision of pedestrian friendly sidewalks, and establishment of traffic calming techniques. It should be noted that the Partnership Planning grants type is only applicable for projects of multi-regional and statewide significance. The overall grants program emphasizes the importance of incorporating the community's feedback in all planning efforts.

The funds available for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09 consist of \$3 million designated for the Community-Based Transportation Planning grants and \$1 million designated for Partnership Planning grants. These funds are allocated on a competitive basis, through a rigorous written application process. Local agencies must submit an application for each candidate project to Caltrans. Since the Partnership Planning grants are only applicable for regional projects, they require a partnership with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission

(MTC). Candidate projects will be screened for compliance with eligibility criteria which emphasize community-based planning, transportation-land use linkages, and transportation choices. Caltrans anticipates that the grants will be awarded in September of 2008 with contract execution planned for January/February of 2009. The Grants program requires that all awarded projects be completed within a two-year period, by February of 2011. Grant payments are on a reimbursement basis. In other words, local agencies pay for the project expenses, and Caltrans – District 4 then reimburses for the billed expenses.

The two selected City projects are:

1. The East Sunnyvale Land Plan, which falls under the Community-Based Transportation Planning grant requirements; and,
2. The El Camino Real Master Multi-Modal Plan and Design Program, which falls under the Partnership Planning grant for projects of regional significance.

Project #1:

On February 12, 2007, the City's Planning Commission recommended approval of a General Plan Amendment (GPA) that transfers an 80-acre "Industrial" area to "Industrial-to-Residential" designation with high and medium residential densities. The Commission also directed staff to prepare a Land Plan for the GPA area. The GPA area that was approved by City Council on February 27, 2007 (RTC 07-084), is bounded by Duane Avenue on the north side, San Xavier Drive on the east side, Stewart Drive on the south side, and partially by De Guigne Drive on the west side. The area's Land Plan will show possible location of local parks, schools, and open space. The Land Plan will particularly focus on providing higher density, mixed-use and transit oriented developments. It will also focus on establishing a grid of public streets and paths that provide for efficient and safe operation of public transit, bicycling, walking and driving.

Project #2:

The El Camino Real Master Multi-Modal Plan and Design Program is a Public Works project that resulted from the City's Precise Plan for El Camino Real. The main Multi-Modal Plan objective is to maintain and enhance the overall road capacity to accommodate automobile, transit and truck traffic while providing improved facilities for bicycles and pedestrians. The Design Program aims at providing equity and balance between all modes of transportation through established standards for median landscaping, bike lanes, on-street parking, street trees, street furnishing, lighting, wider sidewalks, enhanced pedestrian crossings, signing, markings, and enhanced signal operations and deployment of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) devices. Higher density and mixed-use developments will be encouraged at feasible locations, thereby supporting

the use of public transit. The economic vitality of the corridor's retail uses will be enhanced, and commercial developments that are sensitive to adjacent residential neighborhoods will be encouraged.

### **EXISTING POLICY**

The following documents contain policy direction on this issue:

Land Use and Transportation Element R1.3, Promote integrated and coordinated local land use and transportation planning.

Fiscal Sub-Element 7.1B.4.3, Utilize a uniform grants application process to assure that the City Council has the information necessary to make a decision regarding a potential intergovernmental grant. Staff should present to Council a notice of intent regarding a possible grant source which shall include at least the following information:

1. The grant being pursued and the use to which it would be placed.
2. The objectives or goals of the City which will be achieved through use of the grant.
3. The local match required, if any, plus the source of the local match.
4. The increased cost to be locally funded upon termination of the grant.
5. The ability of the City to administer the grant.

### **DISCUSSION**

Per City policy, staff is requesting Council approval of submittal for grant funds. Two eligible grant projects have been identified as follows:

1. The East Sunnyvale Land Plan project has a total estimated cost of \$209,000 (\$167,200 grant funds and \$41,800 local match); and,
2. The El Camino Real Master Multi-Modal Plan and Design Program has a total estimated cost of \$304,000 (\$243,200 grant funds and \$60,800 local match).

A recommendation on the specific source of local matching funds would be made at such time that a grant(s) is approved. It should be noted however, that staff would likely recommend funding the local match associated with the first project by Developer Fees and grant administration through existing Community Development operating budget. Local match of the second project would likely be funded with funds budgeted in project 825540, Transportation Grant Matching funds, and grant administration through the Public Works operating budget.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Should one or both of the Transportation Planning grants be approved, the City could incur a positive fiscal impact in the form of unanticipated revenue

ranging from \$167,200 to over \$410,400, with local match requirements ranging from \$41,800 to \$102,600. Staff would return to Council for consideration of acceptance of any grant and budgeting of matching funds at the time of grant approval.

### **PUBLIC CONTACT**

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall, in the Council Chambers lobby, in the Office of the City Clerk, at the Library, Senior Center, Community Center, and Department of Public Safety; posting the agenda and report on the City's Web site; and making the report available at the Library and the Office of the City Clerk.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Authorize staff to apply for the two selected Transportation Planning Grants applicable for the East Sunnyvale Land Plan, and the El Camino Real Master Multi-Modal Plan and Design Program. Each of the grant funding requires a local match of 20% of the total project cost.
2. Do not take action at this time and forfeit the opportunity to compete for Transportation Planning funds.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends Alternative #1. Authorize staff to apply for the two selected Transportation Planning Grants applicable for the East Sunnyvale Land Plan, and the El Camino Real Master Multi-Modal Plan and Design Program. Each of the grant funding requires a local match of 20% of the total project cost.

Submittal of these grant applications is consistent with City policy to pursue and use intergovernmental funding for planned City projects.

Reviewed by:

Marvin A. Rose, Director, Public Works  
Prepared by: Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Manager

Reviewed by:

Hanson Hom, Director, Community Development

Approved by:

Amy Chan  
City Manager