



Council Meeting: September 28, 2010

**SUBJECT: Vehicle Emissions Reductions Based at Schools (VERBS)
Grant for a School Transportation Demand Management Project-
Resolution of Support**

REPORT IN BRIEF

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) have created a new sub-program for federal Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. This program, the Vehicle Emissions Reductions Based at Schools (VERBS) is focused on reducing greenhouse gases by promoting walking, bike, transit and carpooling to schools. Approximately \$4 million dollars is available to local agencies (cities and the County) on a competitive basis in the initial grant cycle. Eligible activities can be transportation infrastructure or Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs. In response to the call for projects, City staff is proposing to partner with the County Public Health Department Traffic Safe Communities Network (TSCN) to apply its successful model for school TDM programs at a large number of schools in Sunnyvale. Sunnyvale will provide half of the local funding match requirement to facilitate a Sunnyvale focus for the program. The TSCN proposal will cover other schools in other areas as well, since as a County agency it must broadly target Santa Clara County residents. The other half of the local match requirement for the program will be funded from other sources. The program requires the approval of a resolution of support by the City Council. Budgeting of necessary funds for this project would be carried out at the time a grant agreement is approved, and a Memorandum of Understanding defining program parameters and services to be rendered would be executed. Staff recommends approval of the attached resolution (Attachment A).

BACKGROUND

The grant program seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from school-generated automobile traffic. Four million dollars is available in the first grant cycle, with a minimum grant request of \$500,000 and a maximum of \$1 million. One half of the allocation is intended for infrastructure improvement funding, and one half for TDM programs.

EXISTING POLICY

Fiscal Sub-Element 7.1B.4d; Pursue and use intergovernmental assistance for projects in the Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

DISCUSSION

Staff has worked with the County Public Health Department staff to outline a proposal for the establishment of school based TDM programs in a significant portion of Sunnyvale schools. The County TSCN intends to apply for \$1 million in funding, one half of which would be invested in school TDM activities in Sunnyvale. Sunnyvale will provide local matching funds of \$64,780. City and TSCN staff have made initial contacts with the Cupertino Union School District, the Sunnyvale School District, and the Santa Clara Unified School District. A summary of proposed activities is included as Attachment B.

Competitive grant proposals will be ranked for funding by the VTA. Funds will funnel through the MTC, which requires that a resolution be approved stating the City's understanding of the funding program and its requirements and designating a responsible official. Staff is recommending approval of the attached resolution (Attachment A).

FISCAL IMPACT

These funds will be added to the 10 Year Resource Allocation Plan at such time that a funding agreement is approved. Funds would be passed through to the County Public Health Department according to the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding, and grant administration would be by the County. Local matching funds in the amount of \$64,780 are budgeted and available from the City's Transportation Grants Matching Fund.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin boards outside City Hall, in the Council Chambers lobby, the City Clerk's office, 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 Office of the City Clerk.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the attached Resolution of Support for Vehicle Emissions Reductions Based at Schools (VERBS) Transportation Demand Management grant funding.
2. Do not take action at this time and forfeit the opportunity to compete for VERBS funds for School Transportation Demand Management.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Alternative No. 1: Approve the attached Resolution of Support for Vehicle Emissions Reductions Based at Schools (VERBS) Transportation Demand Management grant funding.

Staff recommends approval to facilitate receipt of unanticipated grant revenue to allow the execution of a school based transportation demand management program in Sunnyvale.

Reviewed by:

Marvin A. Rose, Director of Public Works

Prepared by: Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Manager

Approved by:

Gary M. Luebbers

City Manager

Attachment:

- A. Resolution of Support
- B. TSCN Summary Proposal

**Resolution of Local Support
STP/CMAQ Funding**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SUNNYVALE AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION
FOR FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (STP)
AND/OR CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT (CMAQ) FUNDING AND COMMITTING THE
NECESSARY NON-FEDERAL MATCH AND STATING THE
ASSURANCE TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the City of Sunnyvale (herein referred to as APPLICANT) is submitting an application to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for \$500,000 in funding from the federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) and/or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program for the Traffic Safe Communities Network School Transportation Demand Management Project (herein referred to as PROJECT) for the MTC Resolution, No. 3925, New Federal Surface Transportation Act (FY 2009-10, FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12) Cycle 1 STP/CMAQ Program: Project Selection Criteria, Policy, Procedures and Programming (herein referred to as PROGRAM); and

WHEREAS, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA) (Public Law 109-59, August 10, 2005) authorized the Surface Transportation Program (23 U.S.C. § 133) and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) (23 U.S.C. § 149) through September 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, SAFETEA has been extended through December 31, 2010, pursuant to Public Law 111-147, March 18, 2010, and may be subsequently extended pending enactment of successor legislation for continued funding; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to SAFETEA, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, eligible project sponsors wishing to receive federal Surface Transportation Program and/or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (STP/CMAQ) funds for a project shall submit an application first with the appropriate Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), for review and inclusion in the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is the MPO for the nine counties of the San Francisco Bay region; and

WHEREAS, MTC has adopted a Regional Project Funding Delivery Policy (MTC Resolution No. 3606, revised) that sets out procedures governing the application and use of STP/CMAQ funds; and

WHEREAS, APPLICANT is an eligible project sponsor for STP/CMAQ funds; and

WHEREAS, as part of the application for STP/CMAQ funding, MTC requires a resolution adopted by the responsible implementing agency stating the following:

- 1) the commitment of necessary local matching funds of at least 11.47%; and
- 2) that the sponsor understands that the STP/CMAQ funding is fixed at the programmed amount, and therefore any cost increase cannot be expected to be funded with additional STP/CMAQ funds; and

ATTACHMENT A

- 3) that the project will comply with the procedures specified in Regional Project Funding Delivery Policy (MTC Resolution No. 3606, revised); and
- 4) the assurance of the sponsor to complete the project as described in the application, and if approved, as included in MTC's TIP; and
- 5) that the project will comply with all the project-specific requirements as set forth in the PROGRAM.; and
- 6) that the project (transit only) will comply with MTC Resolution No. 3866, which sets forth the requirements of MTC's Transit Coordination Implementation Plan to more efficiently deliver transit projects in the region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE THAT the APPLICANT is authorized to execute and file an application for funding for the PROJECTS under the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) of SAFETEA, any extensions of SAFETEA or any successor legislation for continued funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the APPLICANT, by adopting this resolution, does hereby state that:

1. APPLICANT will provide \$64,780 in non-federal matching funds; and
2. APPLICANT understands that the STP/CMAQ funding for the project is fixed at the MTC approved programmed amount, and that any cost increases must be funded by the APPLICANT from other funds, and that APPLICANT does not expect any cost increases to be funded with additional STP/CMAQ funding; and
3. APPLICANT understands the funding deadlines associated with these funds and will comply with the provisions and requirements of the Regional Project Funding Delivery Policy (MTC Resolution No. 3606, as revised); and
4. PROJECT will be implemented as described in the complete application and in this resolution and, if approved, for the amount programmed in the MTC federal TIP; and
5. APPLICANT (for a transit project only) agrees to comply with the requirements of MTC's Transit Coordination Implementation Plan as set forth in MTC Resolution 3866; and
6. APPLICANT and the PROJECT will comply with the requirements as set forth in the program.

BE IT FURTHER:

RESOLVED that APPLICANT is an eligible sponsor of STP/CMAQ funded projects.

RESOLVED that APPLICANT is authorized to submit an application for STP/CMAQ funds for the PROJECTS.

RESOLVED that there is no legal impediment to APPLICANT making applications for the funds.

ATTACHMENT A

RESOLVED that there is no pending or threatened litigation that might in any way adversely affect the proposed PROJECTS, or the ability of APPLICANT to deliver such PROJECTS.

RESOLVED that APPLICANT the City Manager, or designee to execute and file an application with MTC for STP/CMAQ funding for the PROJECTS as referenced in this resolution.

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be transmitted to the MTC in conjunction with the filing of the application.

RESOLVED that the MTC is requested to support the application for the PROJECTS described in the resolution and to include the PROJECTS, if approved, in MTC's TIP.

Adopted by the City Council at a regular meeting held on _____, 2010, by the following vote:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSTAIN:
- ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

 City Clerk
 (SEAL)

 Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

 David E. Kahn, City Attorney

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Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention
Public Health Department



Date: July 26, 2010

To: Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Manager, City of Sunnyvale

From: Janie Burkhart, Program Manager, Traffic Safe Communities Network/Santa Clara County Public Health Department

Subject: Grant Partnership

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss a potential partnership between Traffic Safe Communities Network (TSCN)/Santa Clara County Public Health Department and the Public Works Department of the City of Sunnyvale on an upcoming grant opportunity through the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). The “Santa Clara County School-based Vehicle Emissions Reduction Program” grant will provide an excellent opportunity for TSCN to continue and build the Safe Routes to School Non-infrastructure Program which was started with Caltrans funding in 2008. Getting students physically active through walking and bicycling to school reduces car traffic around schools, increases safety, improves air quality, increases academic performance and it’s healthy too, helping families fight the obesity epidemic.

Here is summary of the initial conversation to develop a general concept for the upcoming grant application.

With engineering, enforcement and city support, TSCN will provide the following education and encouragement activities with at least 80% of the schools in the Sunnyvale School District:

- Organize community based walkability/bikeability assessments including bicycle and pedestrian counts and environmental checklists in the selected schools.
- Organize Safe Routes to School planning meeting at selected schools including traffic engineers, law enforcement, parents, school staff, healthcare and injury prevention specialists, and community advocates to share the results of the assessment, and develop a school specific plan to get more students walking/biking to school and to improve safety.
- Based on the plan, provide traffic safety education for students in the form of rodeos, classroom presentations, and/or assemblies.
- Based on the plan, provide parent traffic safety and encouragement activities such as workshops, family fun bike nights, help with planning walking school buses.
- Provide incentives and other resources for encouragement activities like Walk and Bike to School Week.

Based on our discussion, City of Sunnyvale will commit

- Participation of engineering and law enforcement staff in Safe Routes to School planning meetings and selected activities at individual schools.
- Provide up to 11.47% local cash match for the grant application.

TSCN will facilitate discussions, with city and school district to develop a model structure including policies and procedures to support walking and bicycling to school that would promote long term changes in transportation choices among students and families.

If successful in the grant application, the City of Sunnyvale and the County of Santa Clara would develop a formal agreement.

Please contact Alice Kawaguchi, Health Education Specialist in Traffic Safe Communities Network, at (408) 793-2733 or Alice.Kawaguchi@phd.sccgov.org , for additional information.