



Agenda Item No. _____

File Code No. 670.04

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: January 26, 2010

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Transportation Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Bicycle Transportation Account Local Share Of Funding

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Certifying that the City Will Make the Required Ten Percent Local Share of Funding Available for the Goleta Slough Safety Improvements Project (Project) Should a Bicycle Transportation Account Award be Made in 2010.

DISCUSSION:

The State of California annually solicits applications to fund bicycle projects with the potential to improve the safety and convenience of bicycle commuting. For the purpose of this application, the Streets and Highways Code Section 890.3 defines a bicycle commuter as "... a person making a trip by bicycle primarily for transportation purposes, including, but not limited to, travel to work, school, shopping, or other destination that is a center of activity and does not include a trip by bicycle primarily for physical exercise or recreation without such a destination." Because the City has a State approved Bicycle Master Plan, it is eligible to apply for Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) funds from Caltrans. A Council Resolution is required acknowledging an agency's commitment to fund ten percent of the project cost if an award is made. The Caltrans BTA application allows for a deferred submittal of the Council Resolution.

On December 1, 2009, staff applied for funds from the Caltrans BTA for a resurfacing project to improve safety for cyclists on the City-owned Goleta Slough Bridge (Bridge) (See Attached Project Location Map). The Bridge supports a Class I bike path connecting the Fairview Bike Route to the Coastal Bike Route. This unfunded Bridge maintenance project located on Airport property is listed in both the 2009 – 2015 and 2010 -2016 Six Year Capital Improvement Programs (CIP). The CIP Report lists funded and unfunded capital projects that address the City's infrastructure and major equipment needs. This plan was adopted by Council following Planning Commission and Transportation and Circulation Committee input at public meetings held on October 16, 2008, January 8, 2009, and January 22, 2009.

This type of project is consistent with the Circulation Element of the General Plan to maintain the system of bikeways (CE Policy 4.2). It is consistent with Bicycle Master Plan Policies that specify the maintenance of the bikeway network and keeping existing facilities in safe and good condition (BMP Policy 2.2). Additionally, the Bicycle Master Plan calls for applying for funds for maintenance projects outside the scope of the City's regular maintenance program.

The Bridge's wood plank decking is currently uneven, making it uncomfortable and jarring for cyclists. This project will improve the safety of cyclists riding the 250-foot Bridge over the Goleta Slough by replacing the Bridge surface. The project will also maintain the 400-foot path from William Moffet Place by applying slurry and pavement treatment as necessary to create a smooth, non-hazardous riding surface in both directions leading up to the Bridge.

The Bridge provides a critical connection from the Fairview Route to the Coastal Route, providing access to agricultural, industrial, commercial and residential land uses, and the UCSB campus, less than one half mile from the Bridge. This Project will benefit commuters and students between Santa Barbara, Goleta, the Santa Barbara Airport, the Goleta Amtrak station, and the UCSB campus.

County and UCSB staff are supportive of the project. Additionally, this project was presented to the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition's (SBBC) General Meeting on December 1, 2009, and received letters of support from the SBBC and several members of the community.

Over the past three years, the City was successful in gaining funding through the BTA grant program for bicycle video detection at city signaling intersections (to be completed by summer 2010).

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Although the Bridge is listed in both Council-approved 2009-2015 and 2010-2016 Six Year CIP's, it has remained unfunded as it competes with other capital projects. Applying for Caltrans funds for this project will free City funds for other capital projects in upcoming Streets Program budgets.

The estimated project cost is \$120,000. If the City is awarded funds from the BTA, Caltrans requires the City to contribute 10%, or \$12,000, which will be provided by the Citywide Bicycle Amenities Account.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The substandard conditions on the Bridge create the weakest link on the transition from the Fairview Route to the Coastal Route. This Project restores a valuable connection between UCSB, the Airport, and commercial and employer destinations. By maintaining the City's existing bicycle paths, the Project will promote cycling by providing a safe facility for cyclists and will benefit the City's sustainability goals by reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions related to motor vehicle use.

ATTACHMENT: Project Location Map

PREPARED BY: Browning Allen, Transportation Manager/SG/kts

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office



ATTACHMENT



GOLETA
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BIKE MAP



Isia
Vista

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
 AT SANTA BARBARA

See Inset Map