



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 20, 2009

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Transportation Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Appropriation Of Federal Funds For The Boysel Multipurpose Pathway

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council increase estimated revenues and appropriations by \$7,000 in the Streets Capital Fund for the Right of Way Phase of the Jake Boysel Multipurpose Pathway Project (Project) funded by the Federal Safe Routes to School grant program.

DISCUSSION:

This is a project to plan, design, and construct an off-street multipurpose pathway (path), separate from the roadway, for exclusive use by bicyclists and pedestrians. The proposed 1,750 linear foot path would begin along Calle Real just east of the St. Vincent's Bridge, as the City could not obtain an easement from St. Vincent's to cross their property. The proposed 10 to 14-foot wide path would parallel the existing sidewalk along Calle Real and connect to an existing 8-foot wide path that would be widened to 10 feet, and that begins near the intersection of Highway 154 and Calle Real. The existing path veers north towards the intersection of Verano Drive and La Colina Road, where bicyclists return to an on-street bike lane. The proposed path is located near La Colina Junior High School, Vieja Valley Elementary School, and Hope Elementary School, and is named in memory of 12-year-old Jake Boysel who was struck and killed by a motorist in 2006 while biking to school on Calle Real.

On January 3, 2007, staff submitted a grant application for Federal Safe Routes to School funds for the design and construction of a multipurpose path. Staff worked with the Boysel Family, the Hope and Santa Barbara School Districts, Caltrans, the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition, the Coalition for Sustainable Transportation and St. Vincent, in the development of the grant application.

The Federal Safe Routes to School grant, in the amount of \$901,700 was approved by Caltrans on June 27, 2007, via Section 1404 of SAFTEA-LU, Safe Routes to School Program. On August 5, 2007, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments amended their Federal Transportation Improvement Program to include this project. On

May 20, 2008, Caltrans authorized \$86,000 to begin the Preliminary Engineering Phase of the Project and Council appropriated those funds on June 10, 2008. Since then, the Project has cleared environmental review with Caltrans, and the engineering design is approximately 60% complete.

With respect to the \$7,000 appropriation requested for the Right of Way Phase, the City is requesting an Encroachment Permit within the Caltrans right of way to widen the existing path, that runs parallel to Highway 154 on the west side to 10 feet of paved width, with a two-foot graded shoulder. The width of the existing path varies, but a paved width of no less than 10 feet will be provided. The portion of the existing path that will be widened will be slurry sealed to provide a consistent path surface along the entire length of the Project.

The City also requires a temporary right of entry on the adjacent St. Vincent's property for grading purposes during the time when the proposed path is connected to their existing pedestrian path. The existing pathway leads to St. Vincent's property to the north of the Boysel path. Maintaining this connection will require some realignment of their path.

All of the permit and processing requirements for the described right of way needs are estimated to cost \$7,000 and require appropriation by City Council.

Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in summer 2010. Staff will return to Council for the award of the construction contract, and appropriation of the construction portion of the grant.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The City has been awarded the Federal Safe Route to School Grant for the Boysel Multipurpose Bike Path in the amount of \$901,700. The Project is projected to be completed using this grant.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The multipurpose path will facilitate alternative and environmentally friendly modes of transportation. The Project will directly support increased safety and convenience for the elementary and middle school children who walk and/or bike to La Colina Junior High School, and other neighboring schools, as well as the general public.

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

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office