



**DATE:** November 27, 2018

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Interim Director of Public Works

**SUBJECT:** Authorization for the City Manager to Submit a Sustainable Communities Grant application to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Division of Transportation Planning in the amount of \$354,120

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council authorizes the City Manager to submit a Sustainable Communities Grant application to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Division of Transportation Planning in the amount of \$354,120.

### **SUMMARY**

Staff requests authorization to submit a Sustainable Communities Grant application in the amount of \$354,120 to study and develop context sensitive complete street plans for roadways in Downtown Hayward. These plans will be used to improve safety, and support reduction strategies related to Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).

If awarded, the grant would lessen the financial burden on the City to procure a transportation consulting firm to prepare a feasibility analysis and conceptual plans for Downtown Hayward traffic circulation improvements.

### **BACKGROUND**

Caltrans recently released the FY 2019-20 call-for-applications for Sustainable Communities, Strategic Partnerships, and Adaptation Planning Grants. A total of \$40 million is available for transportation planning grant awards statewide. The Sustainable Communities Grant was created to support Caltrans' Mission: *Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated, and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability.* Eligible projects plan for reductions in GHG and VMT, and/or integrate Land Use and Transportation Planning. Examples of these projects include, but are not limited to:

- Studies, plans or planning methods that assist transportation agencies in creating sustainable communities and transit-oriented development
- Context-sensitive streetscapes or town center plans
- Complete Street plans

- Traffic calming and safety enhancement plans

The Sustainable Communities Grant provides a timely opportunity to study the feasibility and to develop a detailed conceptual complete street plan for downtown. It aligns with the Downtown Specific Plan, which was initiated in August 2016, and proposes multi-modal enhancements to the Downtown circulation network for a more active, safe, and attractive environment that promotes walking, biking, and transit as viable alternatives to single occupancy vehicles.

## **DISCUSSION**

In 2013, as part of the Route 238/Mission-Foothill-Jackson Corridor Improvement Project, several improvements were made to the roadway network in Downtown Hayward. These improvements included an one-way system of streets along portions of Mission Boulevard, Foothill Boulevard and A Street, which is also referred to as the Downtown Loop. Prior to the implementation, Downtown Hayward consisted primarily of two-way streets, with B Street and C Street as east-west, one-way pairs. The loop improved the regional traffic flow along Mission Boulevard and Foothill Boulevard through downtown Hayward. However, the lane configuration of the loop and irregular pairing of one-way streets creates navigation and wayfinding challenges in the Downtown area, often resulting in safety and operational concerns for all modes of transportation.

Hayward's grant application would request funding for a feasibility study and conceptual plan to address public concerns related to the safety, operational, and circulation challenges with the Loop.

In 2017, the City Manager recommended the development and implementation of a Grant Management Policy, with the general purpose of establishing a process by which departments shall seek administrative approval prior to that of City Council to proceed with grant applications.

### *Grant Management Policy (A.R. 3.6) – Effective October 12, 2017*

In accordance with A.R. 3.6, staff submitted the grant review application, along with intent and supporting documents to the City's established Grant Administrative Oversight Committee (GAOC). After thorough review, the GAOC supports the application and recommends approval to the City Manager and City Council.

### *Support of General Plan Policies*

This agenda item supports numerous General Plan policies:

Land Use - Goal LU-2: To accommodate and encourage growth within compact, mixed-use and walkable neighborhoods and districts that are located near the City's job centers and regional transit facilities, among others.

Mobility - Goal M-1: To provide a comprehensive, integrated and connected network of transportation facilities and services for all modes of travel.

Community Health and Quality of Life - Goal HQL-2: To create convenient and safe opportunities to incorporate physical activity into the everyday activities of residents, employees, and visitors, among others.

This item also supports the City's Climate Action Plan by improving circulation and promoting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, development of multi-modal transportation networks, and a diversity of land uses over reducing congestion of single occupancy vehicles.

## **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Implementation of the specific improvements identified in the Downtown Specific Plan will improve access to the Hayward BART station, improve circulation, and allow better connection between the Downtown area and the rest of the City, creating more business opportunities for downtown area merchants and restaurants. The multi-modal improvements will create a more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly community, thus providing positive health benefits and reduction of GHG emissions.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

A Sustainable Communities Grant has a minimum award of \$100,000 and maximum award of \$1,000,000, with \$29.5 million available for grant awards. The grant requires a 11.47% minimum local match contribution in cash or in the form of an in-kind match. Staff time dedicated to the project is considered as cash match for this grant and may be used to fulfill the entire match requirement.

The project cost is estimated to be approximately \$400,000. The proposed grant funds request is \$354,120. The minimum local match requirement for our grant request is \$45,880, which is equivalent to 319 staff working-hours.

In the event the grant is not awarded, there will be a financial impact to the City as staff will need to identify other sources of funds to further evaluate the proposed improvements.

## **STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

This agenda item supports the Complete Streets Strategic Initiative. The purpose of the Complete Streets initiative is to build transportation networks that are safe, comfortable, and convenient for everyone regardless of age or ability, including motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation riders. This item supports the following goal and objective:

Goal 2: Provide Complete Streets that balance the diverse needs of users of the public right-of-way.

Objective 2: Increase walking, biking, transit usage, carpooling, and other sustainable modes of transportation by designing and retrofitting streets to accommodate all modes.

## **SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES**

Multi-modal transportation and land use planning contributes to the State's GHG reduction targets, addresses the needs of disadvantaged communities, improves accessibility for all, and improves traffic safety. The proposed improvements will align with the City's 2040 General Plan, Complete Streets Policy, Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, Traffic Calming Program, and other regional improvements.

## **PUBLIC CONTACT**

If the grant is awarded, the work will include comprehensive outreach to include residents and community-based organizations to understand community-identified needs and to meaningfully engage in developing the final product. Public outreach will consist of community surveys, meetings, charrettes, and/or focus groups.

## **NEXT STEPS**

If Council approves this request, staff will prepare the grant application and submit it to Caltrans.

## **SCHEDULE**

Grant Application Deadline:	November 30, 2018
Award Notice:	Spring 2019
Anticipated Start Date:	October 2019
Work Completed By:	April 2022

*Prepared by:* Vasavi Pannala, Senior Transportation Engineer

*Recommended by:* Alex Ameri, Interim Director of Public Works

*Approved by:*



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Kelly McAdoo, City Manager