



REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NO.	1 C
COUNCIL MEETING	March 17, 2011
APPROVED BY	
	
DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR	
CITY MANAGER	

March 17, 2011

FROM: PATRICK N. WIEMILLER, Director
Public Works Department

BY: SCOTT L. MOZIER, PE, City Engineer/Assistant Director
Public Works Department, Traffic and Engineering Services Division 

SUBJECT: ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR HIGH SPEED RAIL STATION AREA PLANNING GRANT FUNDS FROM THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANTS PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000.00, AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS (PROJECT LOCATED IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 3)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Council adopt a resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the California Department of Transportation for High Speed Rail Station Area planning grant funds from the Transportation Planning Grants Program, and execution of grant application documents by the Public Works Director or Designee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff is seeking the necessary authorization from Council for an application to the Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant cycle for High Speed Rail Station Area planning. Applications are due on March 30, 2011, and require adoption of a resolution by the Council as the applicant's governing board. While Federal and State dollars have been identified for construction of the initial high speed rail track and structures extending north and south of Fresno (Borden to Corcoran), a significant unfunded need is for the planning of the station area, to be ultimately followed by the design and construction of the complete station. Staff believes that the station area planning grant concept fits very well within the goals of the Community-Based Transportation Planning (CBTP) category of the Caltrans Transportation Planning grant program. The requested funding through this grant will be \$300,000 with matching funds being pursued through the California High Speed Rail Authority, who has announced the availability of up to \$200,000 per station location with a maximum 40% participation by the Authority's funding. If the City's application is selected for grant funding, staff will return to Council with grant award documents and a requested amendment to the Annual Appropriations Resolution to appropriate the necessary funds.

BACKGROUND

High Speed Rail in Fresno has been moving closer to reality through a number of events in the past few years. Passage of State Proposition 1A, award of billions of dollars in Recovery Act stimulus funds by the Federal government and selection of a Fresno route for the first phase of construction by the California High Speed Rail Authority have all been major steps toward implementation. The Authority's current published schedule is to release the environmental impact report for public review in June, to be followed by the award of a design-build contract and acquisition of the necessary right-of-way in 2012. The alignment as shown on the published preliminary alternatives analysis would run parallel to the Union Pacific Railroad tracks through downtown Fresno and include a High Speed Rail station somewhere between Ventura and Tuolumne.

The Authority has adopted policies for stations that essentially look to the local jurisdiction for the planning of the station and its surrounding area, in terms of multi-modal connections to the facility, transit service, locations of parking structures, traffic flow around the station area and related land-use planning for transit-oriented development and commercial uses. The Authority has also adopted station development policies promoting public-private partnerships for the funding of the station construction, operation and maintenance costs. The Authority's consultants have indicated that the base project would only include a "bare bones" station and that the local jurisdictions are to be responsible for providing or obtaining the funding to bring it up to the desired level of features and amenities. However, the Authority has announced the availability of \$200,000 of Authority funding for each station location, which can provide up to a 40% match on other dollars being leveraged. Therefore, staff is pursuing transportation planning funds which can complete the package of funding necessary to develop a complete plan for the station area.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is now inviting applications for the current Transportation Planning Grant cycle. Grant applications are due on March 30, 2011, and require a local resolution from the applicant's governing board to be enacted prior to the application deadline. The Transportation Planning grants are intended to promote a balanced, comprehensive multi-modal transportation system. The results of these grants should ultimately lead to the adoption, initiation and programming of transportation improvements. Staff has identified a significant need and opportunity for funding of the station area planning efforts under the Community-Based Transportation Planning (CBTP) category. \$3 million will be utilized from the State Highway Account to fund CBTP grants, with a cap of \$300,000 per grant and a minimum 10% match in non-Federal funds being required. The goals of CBTP are to fund coordinated transportation and land use planning that promotes public engagement, livable communities and a sustainable transportation system, which includes mobility, access and safety. Caltrans has also specified that project applications should involve conceptual-level plans or study activities that include community-based stakeholder collaboration and consensus building through active public engagement. Staff will be demonstrating how the planning efforts will provide a transportation / land use benefit that will likely induce additional benefits and how the project will then be carried forward to the next phase. Caltrans has provided examples of project types that are eligible under CBTP:

- Long-term sustainable community/economic development growth studies or plans
- Community to school studies or plans/Safe Routes to School studies or plans
- Jobs and affordable housing proximity studies or plans

- Transit Oriented/Adjacent Development or “transit village” studies or plans
- Infill or compact development studies or plans
- Mixed land-use development studies or plans
- Context-sensitive streetscapes or town center studies or plans
- Complete street studies or plans
- Suburban community or urban commercial corridor retrofit studies or plans
- Community revitalization studies or plans
- Smart Growth Planning studies
- Bike and pedestrian safety enhancement studies or plans
- Traffic calming and safety enhancement studies or plans
- Rural smart growth studies or plans
- Welfare-to-Work Transportation Assistance Programs or transit studies or plans
- Corridor enhancement studies or plans
- Health equity studies or plans
- Collaborative regional studies or plans

The proposed High Speed Rail Station Area planning efforts will complement the Downtown Specific Plan currently being prepared under the direction of the Downtown and Community Revitalization Department.

The resolution has been reviewed and approved as to form by the City Attorney’s Office.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed planning grant will utilize State grant funds leveraged by State Prop 1A High Speed Rail funds or other transportation dollars as necessary. No General Fund dollars will be required. If the City is awarded grant funding, staff will return to Council with a proposed amendment to the Annual Appropriations Resolution in order to appropriate the funds necessary to complete the planning study.

PNW/SLM/eam
Adopt Reso for Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant Funds HSR 3-17-11

Attachment: Vicinity Map
Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR HIGH SPEED RAIL STATION AREA PLANNING GRANT FUNDS FROM THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANTS PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000.00, AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation, Transportation Planning Grant Program provides grant funds to eligible agencies for coordinated transportation and land use planning that promotes public engagement, livable communities and a sustainable transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation administers the Grant Program and has requested applications from eligible agencies; and

WHEREAS, it is a requirement of the Grant Program that the applicant's governing body certify by resolution approval of the application and Program participation; and

WHEREAS, the planning of the area around the future High Speed Rail station is a high priority for the City of Fresno; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno, upon approval by its governing body, will enter into an agreement with the State of California for the completion of the High Speed Rail Station planning study.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO HEREBY:

SECTION 1. Approves the filing of an applications for Transportation Planning Grant Funds from the California Department of Transportation in the amount of \$300,000.00 for High Speed Rail Station Area Planning and participation therein, consistent with constitutional and local law requirements and this resolution; and

SECTION 2. Certifies, consistent with constitutional and local law requirements and this resolution that the City has or will have sufficient funds for the Grant funded project upon any acceptance of funding award; and

SECTION 3. Certifies that the City has reviewed, understands and, to the extent consistent with all constitutional and local law requirements and this resolution, agrees to the provisions contained in the application and Grant Program Guidelines, and related documents; and

SECTION 4. Authorizes the Department of Public Works Director or Designee as the agent for the City of Fresno to execute and submit all Grant Program application documents which may be necessary in pursuit thereof.

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CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO)ss.
CITY OF FRESNO)

I, REBECCA E. KLISCH, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, California, at a regular meeting thereof, held on the _____ day of _____, 2011.

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

REBECCA E. KLISCH
City Clerk

By: _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JAMES C. SANCHEZ
City Attorney

By: R 3-09-11
 Robert R. Coyle Date
 Senior Deputy

RRC:elb [55445elb/rrc] Reso