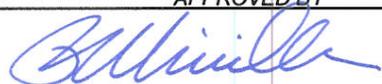
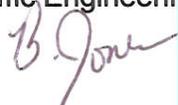


March 24, 2009

AGENDA ITEM NO.	1 E
<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	
APPROVED BY	
	
DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR	
CITY MANAGER	

FROM: PATRICK N. WIEMILLER, Public Works Director   
Public Works Department

THROUGH: SCOTT L. MOZIER, PE, City Engineer/Assistant Director   
Public Works Department, Engineering Division

BY: BRYAN D. JONES, TE, City Traffic Engineer/Traffic Engineering Manager   
Public Works Department, Traffic Engineering

MARY J. GONZALEZ, Grants Writer   
Public Works Department, Administration

SUBJECT: ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CALTRANS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANTS FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 - ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: CONTEXT-SENSITIVE PLANNING GRANT AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

**KEY RESULT AREA**

One Fresno

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the submission of applications for and acceptance of grant funds from the Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants Fiscal Year 2009-2010 – Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive Planning Grant and authorizing the execution of documents by the Public Works Director.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Assessment and Community Action Plan proposes to conduct a “Needs Assessment” of the neighborhood and community conditions affecting the ability of students and local residents to safely walk and bicycle to school, connect to transit, and access other major community activity centers. The proposed plan will include safety analysis, identify any existing barriers (perceived and physical), work directly with community groups for outreach and education, and conduct up to four community charrette and education meetings with local residents.

Neighborhood areas and schools targeted will be concentrated in Southwest, Southeast, and Downtown Fresno south of the Belmont Avenue line and include neighborhoods in the vicinity of the California State University of Fresno campus. This focused project area includes approximately 30 individual neighborhood school areas. In addition, the proposed plan will include funding to establish neighborhood community crossing guard training for these communities.

### **KEY OBJECTIVE BALANCE**

The resolution balances the three Key Objectives of Customer Satisfaction, Employee Satisfaction and Prudent Financial Management. Customer Satisfaction is achieved by reaching out to under-represented communities and providing a forum for citizen participation in the direct planning of their communities. An active community is a healthy community. We want to provide opportunities for students to exercise in their daily activities while improving congestion around schools and the air quality by increasing the number of non-auto trips made in these communities. Employee Satisfaction is achieved through a working partnership with community members, local residents, and stakeholders to develop a plan to improve communities benefitting local residents of all ages and backgrounds. This outreach will also assist the Fresno Police Department and Fresno Traffic Engineering Division with their education to local school aged students about safe and accessible paths to school. Prudent Financial Management is achieved by the collaborative efforts of the citizens of Fresno, local community partners, and City staff working together to develop a quality Environmental Justice Community Plan that maximizes the City resources to the fullest extent possible.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive Planning Grant is a component of the Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant. These grants are intended to promote a balanced, comprehensive, and multi-modal transportation system. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Assessment and Community Action Plan proposes to conduct a Needs Assessment of the neighborhood and community conditions affecting the ability of students and local residents to safely walk and bicycle to school and other major community activity centers. The project will include safety analysis, identify any existing barriers (perceived and physical), work directly with community groups for outreach and education, and conduct up to four community charrette and education meetings for local residents. Neighborhood areas and schools targeted will be concentrated in Southwest, Southeast, and Downtown Fresno south of the Belmont Avenue line and include neighborhoods in the vicinity of the California State University of Fresno campus. This focused project area includes approximately 30 individual neighborhood school areas.

The Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive Planning Grant promotes community involvement in planning to improve mobility, access, and safety while promoting economic opportunity, equity, environmental protection, and affordable housing for low-income, minority, and Native-American communities. There is approximately \$3 million available from the State Highway Account and the program has a funding cap of \$250,000 per grant. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Assessment and Community Action Plan proposed to the Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive Planning Grant will include various community organizations and public agencies as direct participants and/or community project advisors.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Staff recommends, in consultation with the City Attorney's Office, that applying for this grant and conducting the Needs Assessment are not "projects" under CEQA and would have no possibility to result in a physical impact to the environment pursuant to CEQA Guideline Section 15061(b)(3). The Needs Assessment is intended to be an informational tool to assist in future planning. Additionally, providing additional crossing guards is an organizational or administrative activity that would not result in a direct or indirect impact to the physical environment. Alternatively to the above, any possible impact to the physical environment that would result from any plan developed pursuant to the Needs Assessment would be speculative at this point in time.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive Planning Grant Program requires a 10% local match for projects awarded grant funding which will be funded from Measure C local funds.

Attachment: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CALTRANS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANTS FISCAL YEAR 2009-1010 – ENVIRONOMENTAL JUSTICE: CONTEXT-SENSITIVE PLANNING GRANT AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTITON OF DOCUMENTS BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

WHEREAS, the Transportation Planning Grant Program - Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive Planning Grant provides grant funds to eligible agencies to promote a balanced, comprehensive multi-modal transportation system; and

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

WHEREAS, the applicant’s governing body certifies by resolution approval of the applications and program participation and the availability of the minimum local match of 10%; and

WHEREAS, the City has appropriations available to meet the program matching requirements; and

WHEREAS, the City will enter into an agreement with the State of California for the development of a grant funded Environmental Justice Plan.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. The Council approves the filing of applications for and acceptance of the Transportation Planning Grant from the State of California from the Environmental Justice: Context Sensitive Planning Program and participation therein, consistent with all federal, state and local legal requirements and this resolution.

2. The Council certifies, consistent with all federal, state and local legal requirements and this resolution that the City has sufficient funds for the projects.

3. The Council certifies that the City has reviewed, understands and, to the extent consistent with all federal, state and local legal requirements and this resolution, agrees to the provisions contained in the applications and program guidelines, manual and related documents.

4. The Council Appoints and authorizes the Department of Public Works Director, and his or her designee, as the agent for the City of Fresno to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned projects, subject to prior approval as to form by the City Attorney's Office.

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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 \_\_\_th day of March \_\_\_\_, 2009.

AYES :  
NOES :  
ABSENT :  
ABSTAIN :

Mayor Approval: \_\_\_\_\_, 2009

Mayor Approval/No Return: \_\_\_\_\_, 2009

Mayor Veto: \_\_\_\_\_, 2009

Council Override Vote: \_\_\_\_\_, 2009

REBECCA E. KLISCH  
City Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JAMES C. SANCHEZ  
City Attorney

By:   
Kathryn C. Phelan, Deputy City Attorney

Date: 3/17, 2009

KCP:bf [48457bfs/RESO] 03/17/09