



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** James R. Helmer

**SUBJECT: PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES  
PLANNING GRANTS**

**DATE:** 01-27-06

Approved

Date

1/30/06

Council District: Citywide

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Approval of a grant funding agreement with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority for the preparation of a Pedestrian Master Plan and an Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan Update for Citywide sidewalk improvements, and providing funding to the City in the amount of \$150,000.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) manages a grant program that encourages local jurisdictions to plan for multi-modal, pedestrian-friendly streets and transit oriented, mixed use development. The grant program is referred to as the Community Design and Transportation (CDT) Planning Grant program.

The Department of Transportation has applied for and been approved to receive a CDT Planning Grant in the amount of \$150,000 that allows for the preparation of a Citywide Pedestrian Master Plan and an American's with Disabilities Act Transition Plan Update. A grant funding agreement with the VTA has been prepared and is recommended for City Council approval.

## **ANALYSIS**

### Pedestrian Master Plan

Over the past decade the City has had an increased focus on providing quality facilities for pedestrian travel throughout San José. Priority pedestrian corridors have been added as an element to the City's General Plan, new streetscape design standards have been adopted for the Downtown area, Strong Neighborhood Initiative (SNI) plans have been approved with priorities related to improved pedestrian facilities, and the City has traffic calming and traffic safety education programs that emphasize pedestrian safety. In addition, new technologies and products are available and have been implemented that enhance the pedestrian environment, such as "countdown" signals at intersections.

The City's pedestrian policies, plans, and design standards are now documented through a variety of different sources. The City would benefit by having a comprehensive pedestrian master plan to help facilitate internal and external communications of the City's plans for a quality pedestrian transportation system. Additionally, having a comprehensive Pedestrian Master Plan would assist the City in being more competitive for receiving regional and state grants for the construction of pedestrian system improvements.

#### ADA Transition Plan Update for City Sidewalks

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that public facilities be made accessible for persons with disabilities. This includes improving the accessibility of sidewalks over time by installing curb ramps and removing sidewalk barriers. A Transition Plan can aid the City's efforts by including a self-evaluation of needs and a set of policies, procedures and funding strategies to address the needs.

The Department of Transportation maintains a geographic database of curb ramp and sidewalk needs across the City and manages an annual program to construct curb ramps at priority locations. The ADA Transition Plan Update would evaluate and consider improvements to the City's current program in comparison with the best practices of other communities.

#### VTA Grant Agreement

Under the terms of the proposed grant agreement with the VTA, the City would be the lead in preparing the Pedestrian Master Plan and the ADA Transition Plan Update. The plans would be prepared utilizing the principles of the VTA's Manual of Best Practices for Integrating Transportation and Land Use (adopted by the City Council in September 2003) and the VTA staff would have opportunities to participate in the plan development. The VTA would reimburse City costs in the amount of up to \$150,000 and the City would provide a "local match" funding contribution of \$30,000. The deadline for completing both plans is within two years from the time the grant agreement is approved.

#### Implementation Process

The Department of Transportation proposes to select qualified consultant teams to prepare each plan, using standard City procedures for consultant selection. Development of the plan will be coordinated with the VTA, various City Departments, and key stakeholder groups (see further discussion below). Staff also proposes to provide coordination with the City Council's Building Better Transportation Committee during the development of the plans.

### **OUTCOME**

The development of current plans for improved pedestrian facilities and improved sidewalk access for persons with disabilities will help guide future investments from City, private and grant resources, toward enhancing the City transportation system for pedestrians. This supports the City's desired outcome for a safe and livable community.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Development of the proposed pedestrian and ADA plans will include outreach with the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the City's Disability Advisory Committee, and key community stakeholder groups such as Walk San José, neighborhood associations, and SNI Team Leaders. The proposed scope of work will include outreach to the general community as well.

**COORDINATION**

This report was prepared by the Department of Transportation in coordination with the City Manager's Budget Office and the City Attorney's Office. Development of the proposed pedestrian and ADA plans will also be coordinated with the Departments of Planning Building and Code Enforcement, Public Works, and Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services; and the San Jose Redevelopment Agency.

**COST IMPLICATIONS**

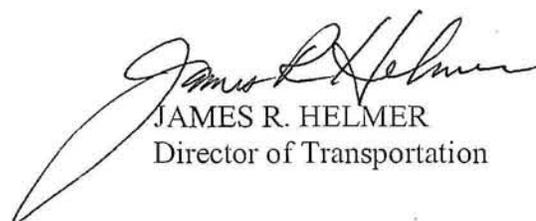
The recommended action will secure \$150,000 in grant funds and require a \$30,000 cost contribution from the City. This project has been allocated in the City's Traffic Capital Improvement Program. The reimbursement from VTA will be programmed in the 2007-2011 Proposed Capital Improvement Program.

**BUDGET REFERENCE**

Fund #	Appn #	Appn. Name	RC #	Total Appn	Amt. for Contract	2005-2006 Adopted Capital Budget (Page)	Last Budget Action (Date, Ord. No.)
465	5041	Pedestrian and ADA Transition Plan Update	139649	\$180,000	\$0	V - 1082	n/a

**CEQA**

Not a project.

  
JAMES R. HELMER  
Director of Transportation