



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Hans F. Larsen

**SUBJECT:** CLIMATE INITIATIVE GRANTS

**DATE:** 11-08-10

Approved

Date

11/10/10

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS:** Citywide

## RECOMMENDATION

Adopt three separate resolutions that:

1. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to submit the following grant applications to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds:
  - a. In the amount of \$835,619 for the "Walk n' Roll San Jose!" non-infrastructure program, with a local match commitment of \$108,263; and
  - b. In the amount of \$567,762 for the "Walk n' Roll San Jose! – Safe Access" infrastructure project, with a local match commitment of \$84,838; and
  - c. In the amount of \$1,500,000 for the "Innovative Bicycle Detection System" project, with a local match commitment of \$210,000.
2. Commits the City to provide the required local match stated above and to pay for any additional cost to complete each of the projects; and
3. Assures each of the projects will be completed in compliance with the submitted applications, MTC Regional Funding Delivery Policy, and the grant program requirements; and
4. Authorizes the City Manager, or designee, to accept grant funding from the MTC for each of the submitted applications and negotiate and execute any documents to accept the grant funds.

## OUTCOME

Adoption of the three resolutions required by MTC for the grants would enable the City to receive a total of \$2,903,381 in CMAQ funds to: Develop and implement a three-year

transportation mode shift program to encourage walking and biking at selected elementary schools (Non-infrastructure); install low-cost traffic safety enhancements along walking and biking routes to schools participating in the mode shift program (Infrastructure); and install technology to allow bicyclists to be detected by traffic signals so they can receive a green light (Innovative Grant Program).

## **BACKGROUND**

The Department of Transportation (DOT) actively pursues grant funds for projects that support the goals of the Transportation City Service Area. DOT recently submitted three grant applications for funding consideration under MTC's Climate Initiative Grant Program, in the Safe Routes to School and Innovative Grants categories. DOT has been notified that the "Innovative Bicycle Detection System" project has been approved for funding, and that the two *Walk n' Roll San Jose!* (non-infrastructure and infrastructure) projects are being recommended for funding, with final approval tentatively scheduled for mid-December, 2010. A separate "Resolution of Local Support" is required by MTC for each of the three projects. The "Innovative Bicycle Detection System" project resolution must be submitted by December 8, 2010 and the resolutions for the two "*Walk n' Roll San Jose!*" projects must be submitted by December 9, 2010.

## **ANALYSIS**

MTC's new Climate Initiative program was recently created to test new strategies to reduce transportation-related emissions and vehicle miles traveled. A portion of these funds is managed directly by MTC, while a separate portion has been distributed to congestion management agencies for local administration. The Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) obtained \$4.04 million dollars in CMAQ funds to award to projects in Santa Clara County. These funds were equally split to fund Infrastructure and Non-infrastructure projects. Under this program, the City submitted two grant applications, which are currently being recommended for funding by VTA staff. Final review and potential approval of the grant projects is scheduled to occur by the VTA Board on December 9, 2010. If approved, the funds would be available for use by the City in the 2011-12 through 2013-14 school years.

**Walk n' Roll San Jose! Non-Infrastructure Program:** This program would develop and implement a three-year mode-shift program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; ease traffic congestion and create a safer environment in school zones; and encourage students at 35 San José elementary schools to adopt a healthy lifestyle by encouraging walking and biking to school. The total project cost is \$944,282, of which \$835,619 would be funded through the Climate Initiative program's Safe Routes to School grant funds.

**Walk n' Roll San Jose! – Safe Access Infrastructure Project:** This project is a companion project to the non-infrastructure mode shift program, and will install low cost engineering enhancements such as roadway markings and signs, ADA ramps, speed radar

signs and flashing beacons to enhance safety along walking/bicycling routes to elementary schools. The total project cost is \$652,600, of which \$567,762 would be funded through the Climate Initiative program's Safe Routes to School grant funds.

A third grant application submitted directly to MTC under their Climate Initiative Innovative Grant Program was approved for funding by the MTC on October 27, 2010. The funds will be allocated to the City in Spring 2011.

**Innovative Bicycle Detection System Project:** This project will test and evaluate eight different technologies that allow bicyclists to be detected by traffic signals so they can receive a green light. Testing will occur on the San Fernando Street, and Williams Street/Bollinger Road bicycle corridors in 2012. Once a "best" technology is identified, this project will implement the technology on additional corridors in San Jose's Primary Bikeway Network. The grant project will be completed by December 31, 2013.

The Resolution of Local Support for each of the grant projects requires the City to make the following commitments:

1. Provide specified local match with non-federal funds;
2. Acknowledge that the CMAQ funding for the project is fixed at the programmed amount, and that any cost increase must be funded by the City from other funds;
3. Acknowledge the funding deadlines and agree to comply with the provisions and requirements of the Regional Project Funding Delivery Policy;
4. Provide assurance that the project will be completed as described in the application, and as programmed in MTC's Transportation Improvement Program;
5. Provide assurance that the project will comply with all grant program requirements.

### **EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

After the acceptance and award of the grant funding by MTC and VTA, staff will bring forward recommendations for Council consideration to recognize and appropriate the grant funding as part of the 2011-2012 Proposed Capital Budget process.

### **POLICY ALTERNATIVES**

Council could elect not to provide a Resolution of Local Support for either of the two *Walk n' Roll San Jose!* (non-infrastructure and infrastructure) projects; and/or the Innovative Bicycle Detection System project, therefore removing the project/s from funding consideration by the granting agency/agencies.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST**

- Criterion 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- Criterion 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criterion 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

This memorandum will be posted on the City's website for the Council agenda.

### **COORDINATION**

This memo has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, the City Manager's Budget Office and the Planning Building and Code Enforcement Department.

### **FISCAL/POLICY ALIGNMENT**

These grants help implement Strategy 2.3 from the Council-approved San José *Bike Plan 2020* addressing "bicycle-friendly signals and pavement markings." In addition, they support the City's Green Vision to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the transportation component of the Environmental Services Department's "Go Green" Schools certification program, as well as the Council-approved Budget Principle to leverage State and local grant funds to implement regional transportation projects. The grants further support the City's Transportation and Aviation City Service Area outcomes to "Provide a Transportation System that Enhances Community Livability," and that, "Travelers Have a Positive, Reliable and Efficient Experience."

### **COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS**

This memorandum would commit \$403,101 of local match funds from the Construction Excise Tax Fund in order to secure a total of \$2,903,381 of Federal grant funds from the Climate Initiative Program. Should pending applications for the Federal Climate Initiative funds be approved, staff will return to Council with recommendations to appropriate and recognize the grant funding as part of the 2011-2012 Proposed Capital Budget process.

11-08-10

Subject: Climate Initiative Grants

Page 5

**BUDGET REFERENCE**

The table below identifies the fund and appropriation proposed to fund the City's local match for the grant as recommended as part of this memorandum.

Fund #	Appn #	Appn. Name	Total Appn.	Amt. for Local Match	2010-2011 Adopted Capital Budget Page	Last Budget Action (Date, Ord. No.)
465	4292	Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities	\$616,800	\$210,000	V-849	10/19/2010, Ord. No. 28829
465	8999	Ending Fund Balance	\$4,546,513	\$193,101	N/A	10/19/2010, Ord. No. 28829
		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$403,101</b>		

**CEQA**

*Walk n' Roll San Jose!* Non-Infrastructure Project, and  
*Walk n' Roll San Jose!* – Safe Access Infrastructure Project:  
 Exempt, File No. PP10-113, Section 15301 (c)

Innovative Bicycle Detection System Project:  
 Exempt, File No. PP06-210, Section 15301 (c)

/s/  
 HANS F. LARSEN  
 Acting Director of Transportation

For questions, please contact Laura Wells, DOT Deputy Director at 975-3725.