



Memorandum

TO: BUILDING BETTER
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

FROM: James R. Helmer

**SUBJECT: PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE
PROJECT GRANTS**

DATE: 02-17-04

Approved

Date

RECOMMENDATION

Accept report on candidate projects for pedestrian and bicycle grant programs and refer to the City Council the approval of proposed projects for upcoming grant programs.

BACKGROUND

A strategic goal of the Transportation City Service Area (CSA) is the expansion and enhancement of facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists. Several City programs and activities contribute to the fulfillment of this goal including: development of the creek trail system, closing sidewalk gaps, installing curb ramps, constructing pedestrian bridges, installing bike lanes, and traffic calming.

Various funding grants are available to support the development of pedestrian and bicycle systems. Attachment 1 includes a summary of these grant programs. Funding sources are generally oriented toward major investments having regional significance (typically greater than \$1 million) or minor investments serving local needs (typically less than \$1 million). The planning and funding of major investments is coordinated by the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) as part of their Valley Transportation Plan (VTP). On December 16, 2003, the City Council adopted a list of candidate projects and City priorities for the VTP2030 plan, which included major pedestrian and bicycle facility investments (see Attachment 2). The priority VTP 2030 pedestrian and bicycle projects approved by the City Council are listed below.

Major Project Priorities (VTP 2030)	Council District
Los Gatos Creek Trail – Auzerais to Santa Clara St	3, 6
Guadalupe River Trail – Rt 880 to Alviso	3, 4
Blossom Hill Rd/ Monterey Hwy Ped Improvements	2
San Tomas Expwy – Misc Bike/Ped Improvements	1
Almaden Expwy Ped Overcrossing – North of Coleman	10
Branham Ln Ped Overcrossing at Rt 101	2

The purpose of this report is to identify candidate projects for minor grant programs (less than \$1 million) that serve local needs.

ANALYSIS

Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities – Local Program (Minor Projects)

Department of Transportation (DOT) staff maintains an ongoing inventory of sidewalk improvement needs. The contents of the inventory is based on requests from residents, Council Offices, community based organizations, the City’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), City staff and other agencies. The current inventory (shown on Attachment 3) includes 112 project locations and it is used to select candidate projects for grant applications. Regarding bicycle facilities, the City’s General Plan includes a master plan for bikeway locations. The City’s BPAC recommends priority locations for the installation of bike lanes. The current priorities include the completion of planned bike lanes in the Downtown and North San José areas to promote increased bicycle travel near San José State University and the City’s major job centers.

School Access Enhancement Study

During 2002, a school access enhancement study was prepared by DOT and Alta Transportation Consulting. A total of 42 schools were selected for the study based on recommendations by school district officials, Council Offices and neighborhood associations. The study identified various improvement needs related to traffic controls, drop-off zones, education, enforcement, curb ramps, and sidewalks. Most of the improvement needs have been addressed. Regarding sidewalk improvements, the following eight projects are currently unfunded. It is recommended that the City establish these projects as priorities for upcoming grant programs, and in particular the TDA3 and Safe Routes to School grants. As noted in the table, three projects require coordination with the County.

School	Council District	Scope
Baldwin Elementary	2	Santa Teresa Blvd between Martinvale and Bernal; install sidewalk on southside; remove and replace trees
Bernal Middle	2	Curie Dr east of San Ignacio; install sidewalk, curb and gutter on southside; requires land acquisition; within County jurisdiction
Ann Darling Elementary	3	Marburg Way at 33 rd ; extend sidewalk on southside
Lyndale Elementary	5	Wilbur Ave west of Lyndale; install sidewalk on southside; within County jurisdiction
Linda Vista Elementary	5	Kirk Ave at Gordon; close sidewalk gap; within County jurisdiction

Yerba Buena High	7	Phelan Ave at Roberts; install median refuge island and crosswalk
Cedar Grove Elementary	8	Sugarplum Dr at Peppermint; widen sidewalk area for passenger loading
Carlton Elementary	9	Adonis Way at Redstone; install sidewalk, curb and gutter; proposed land donation by school

TDA3 Grant Recommendations

The State Transportation Development Act, Article 3 (TDA3) provides annual funding grants for the improvement of the pedestrian and bicycle transportation infrastructure. This program provides a dedicated source of funding to local agencies based on population. The VTA coordinates the program for the Santa Clara County area. The City’s estimated funding share for fiscal year 2004-05 is approximately \$450,000. As described in Attachment 4, it is recommended that the TDA3 funding grants be allocated to school access improvements at Ann Darling Elementary, Cedar Grove Elementary, and Yerba Buena High School, and for various ongoing Citywide pedestrian and bicycle programs. The selected school access improvement projects include those for which no land acquisition is needed, as this is a condition for obtaining TDA3 funds. Further, TDA3 funding is recommended to continue three ongoing programs related to enhancing bikeways, providing safety education, and installing curb ramps.

Safe Routes to Schools Grant Recommendations

Caltrans manages a competitive grant program to fund the construction of improvements that support safe access to schools. For the Year 2004 Safe Routes to School (SRS) grant cycle, it is recommended that the City pursue the improvements recommended at the Baldwin Elementary and Carlton Elementary Schools, as these projects are in City jurisdiction. For the Year 2005 SRS grant cycle, it is recommended that the City pursue a partnership with the County to implement the improvements identified for the Bernal Middle, Lyndale Elementary, and Linda Vista Elementary Schools.

The combined approach of using TDA3 and Safe Routes to School grants over a 2-year period as discussed above, is intended to facilitate completion of all pedestrian access improvement recommendations made in the City’s School Access Enhancement Study.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The recommendations relating to the project priorities described in this report were coordinated with the City’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

COORDINATION

Review of City issues and interests related to developing the City's pedestrian and bicycle facilities has been coordinated with Planning, Building and Code Enforcement; Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services; Public Works; Office of Economic Development; Office of the City Attorney; and the San José Redevelopment Agency.

JAMES R. HELMER
Director of Transportation

Attachments