

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

City of Salinas, California

DATE: October 4, 2016

FROM: Gary Petersen, Director of Public Works
Megan Hunter, Director of Community Development

THROUGH: James Serrano, Transportation Planner

BY: Lisa Brinton, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS FOR THE PREPARATION OF
EAST ALISAL COMPLETE STREETS PLAN UNDER CALTRANS
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES GRANT**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into agreements for professional services (the "Agreements") with Raimi +Associates, Inc (Raimi), Local Government Commission, (LGC), the Action Council and Applied Development Economics (ADE) to prepare a Complete Streets Plan for East Alisal (the "Plan") under the Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant. The Plan will be prepared in conjunction with and will become part of the Alisal Vibrancy Plan (AVP).

DISCUSSION:

Background

On August 16, 2016, the Salinas City Council adopted Resolution 21022 (N.C.S.) authorizing the Public Works Director to execute agreements related to a \$260,782 Caltrans Sustainable Community Transportation Grant the City was awarded in June 2016. The Sustainable Communities Transportation Planning Grant Program provides planning grants for projects that support a sustainable transportation system with goals that include multimodal mobility, accessibility for all users, a vibrant economy, livable and healthy communities and practice of environmental stewardship.

Sustainable Communities Grant Scope of Work

The Caltrans approved scope of work, schedule and budget for the Complete Street Plan is provided as an attachment to this report. The total budget is \$294,578 (\$260,782 Sustainable Communities Grant plus the required 11.47% City match of \$33,796 which will be met through City staff time spent working on the grant). The Project area is the Alisal Street corridor from Front Street to Bardin Road. The Plan will focus on identifying the mobility, safety and economic development needs of residents and businesses, and developing corresponding solutions. Building off of identified barriers and recommendations for physical changes to streets, sidewalks, and intersections identified through community engagement conducted as part of the draft Economic Development Element, the Plan will:

- analyze the challenges to local walking and bicycling for routine daily trips (to school, store, work, park, etc.) and access to jobs in the surrounding region by car, transit or emerging shared mobility options;
- identify opportunity sites for infill, residential or commercial development that can meet local needs, reduce the distance residents travel and increase economic vitality;
- provide an opportunity to engage local businesses and identify strategies that will help them be more successful; and
- include a robust public engagement process with multiple opportunities for residents to participate.

The final product will be a Plan for making the 4-mile corridor along East Alisal a Complete Street that works for all residents of Salinas, and is technically feasible and implementable by government agencies, businesses and the community. The Plan will be incorporated as a chapter of the Alisal Vibrancy Plan. The Complete Streets Plan will follow the AVP schedule, which is a two year planning process.

Complete Street Plan Partners

The City partnered with the Local Government Commission (LGC), and Building Healthy Communities (BHC) to submit the Sustainable Communities Transportation Grant Application. The grant scope of work will be achieved through the following partnership.

- *City of Salinas.* The City of Salinas is the lead applicant for the project. City staff will participate in all aspects of the project including review and comment on all plan documents and products and grant administration. City staff work will meet the local match requirement for the grant.
- *Local Government Commission (LGC).* LGC will assist with project management, organize and facilitate the community design charrettes, provide content for outreach and publicity materials (e.g., flyers and posters), document public input and assist with development of the plan. The LGC assists localities in creating more economically vibrant, environmentally sustainable, and civically involved communities. LGC staff has experience in public engagement in planning processes, land use and transportation planning and design and planning project facilitation. LGC staff has developed and presented over 60 community design charrettes on Designing for Pedestrian Safety (for the Federal Highway Administration), Safe Routes to School (for the National SRTS Center) and Complete Streets (for the National Complete Streets Coalition). LGC has staff that is fluent in Spanish and can conduct meetings and workshops in English and Spanish.
- *Building Healthy Communities (BHC).* BHC (operating under the Action Council) will assist with community outreach by coordinating with local community-based organizations to better engage local residents. BHC is a community driven initiative, grounded in a strong local history of community advocacy and active partnerships between residents, private organizations and public agencies. BHC is also the host organization for the youth-led Ciclovía Salinas, which annually transforms 1.5 miles of the East Alisal Corridor making it available to a wide range of uses including recreation (cycling), live music, art and resource booths. Through this event, BHC has developed strong ties with local businesses and active transportation users and advocates. BHC has also leveraged this event to engage many East Salinas residents, and youth specifically, in conversations around transportation and urban revitalization along the Alisal Corridor.

- *Raimi + Associates Team.* Raimi working with sub consultants Nelson Nygaard and Placeworks will:
 - analyze and document typical baseline conditions along the Alisal corridor for streets, sidewalks and intersections, and key routes for walking, bicycling and transit;
 - help assess the mobility needs of residents;
 - actively engage in the public process, develop design concepts and recommendations that respond to input from the community;
 - identify opportunity sites for infill residential or commercial development and identify strategies that will help existing businesses be more successful; and
 - prepare the plan document.

The Raimi team was contracted to prepare the Alisal Vibrancy Plan after a competitive selection process. Raimi has substantial local knowledge and past experience working in East Salinas. Raimi was involved in the community outreach process for the EDE and has provided technical assistance to BHC and the Monterey County Health Department on separate community engagement and empowerment initiatives. In addition, a member of the Raimi team was born and raised in East Salinas and has experience working closely with the community and local businesses.

Caltrans approved the City moving forward with Raimi as the Complete Streets Plan consultant versus undertaking a separate bidding process in order that community engagement and planning efforts of the Complete Streets and Vibrancy Plan can be done in concert, and not duplicate efforts.

Applied Development Economics (ADE). ADE will conduct the economic analysis of the identified residential or commercial infill opportunity sites. ADE will also develop a demand analysis for additional retail and other commercial uses in the study area. This will provide a backdrop for considering the amount and location of future commercial development. The retail analysis will specifically address store type gaps in the existing commercial mix in the neighborhood. In the past, ADE has provided economic development consulting services to the City including market analysis for the preparation of the Economic Development Element and analysis of development and financing proposals.

ISSUE:

Shall the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute Agreements with Raimi +Associates, Inc (Raimi), Local Government Commission, (LGC), the Action Council and Applied Development Economics (ADE) to prepare a Complete Streets Plan for East Alisal Street under the Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant?

FISCAL IMPACT:

In August 2016 the City Council adopted Resolution 21021 accepting the Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant Award of \$260,782 and appropriating said funds to the City's Capital Improvement Program. Table 1 below details the not to exceed agreement amounts for each of the Project partners. The Caltrans Grant will be the funding source for the Raimi, LGC and Action Council agreements. \$14,400 of the ADE agreement will be paid by the Caltrans Grant, with CIP 9247: EDE Implementation covering the balance of \$20,390.

Partner	Not to Exceed Amount	Funding Source
Raimi + Associates	\$152,300	Caltrans Grant
Local Government Commission	\$52,920 \$53,760	Caltrans Grant
Action Council	\$ 21,950	Caltrans Grant
Applied Development Economics	\$ 14,400 \$ 20,390	Caltrans Grant EDE Implementation CIP 9247

The Sustainable Communities Grant Program requires an 11.47% match (\$33,796) which will be met through staff work on the project.

TIME CONSIDERATIONS:

Execution of these Agreements is the first step towards commencing work on the East Alisal Complete Streets Plan. Having been awarded the grant funds from Caltrans, it is important that the City demonstrate that it is commencing the project in a timely manner. Furthermore, this Complete Streets Plan will be prepared in conjunction with and will become part of the Alisal Vibrancy Plan (AVP). The formal Kick off meeting for the AVP is scheduled for October 14th. It is important that these planning efforts are conducted simultaneously.

ALTERNATIVES/IMPLICATIONS:

As alternatives to approving this resolution, the City Council could:

1. adopt the resolution with modifications;
2. take no action regarding this resolution; or
3. other actions the City Council deems appropriate in this matter.

Staff will not be able to move forward with the East Alisal Complete Streets Plan without executed agreements with the identified partners. A delay with initiating the Complete Streets Plan will impact the preparation of the circulation and mobility components of the Alisal Vibrancy Plan.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS:

Alisal/East Salinas is one of the areas identified as a Focused Growth Area in the City's accepted draft Economic Development Element (EDE). The preparation of the Alisal Community Vibrancy Plan including a Complete Streets Plan for East Alisal is directly tied to several EDE goals, policies, and actions items related to promoting economic development and vibrancy and excellent infrastructure in East Salinas. The EDE, as a strategy document, as well as its implementation, aligns closely with the City Council's goals (2016-2019) of:

- I. Economic Diversity and Prosperity
- II. Safe, Livable Community
- III. Effective, Sustainable Government
- IV. Well Planned City and Excellent Infrastructure
- V. Quality of Life

The proposed resolution is consistent with:

1. 2016-2019 Salinas City Council Strategic Plan Goal IV: Well Planned City and Excellent Infrastructure; and
2. 2016-2017 Key Strategy: Develop and Implement the Alisal Vibrancy Plan.

CONCLUSIONS:

It is recommended that the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into agreements for professional services (the “Agreements”) with Raimi +Associates, Inc (Raimi), Local Government Commission, (LGC), Action Council and Applied Development Economics (ADE) to prepare a Complete Streets Plan for East Alisal (the “Plan”) under the Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant. The Plan will be prepared in conjunction with and will become part of the Alisal Vibrancy Plan (AVP).

Attachments:

Resolution

Sustainable Communities Scope of Work, Budget and Schedule