

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

City of Salinas, California

DATE: August 16, 2016

FROM: Gary Petersen, Public Works Director

THROUGH: Robert C. Russell, City Engineer

BY: James Serrano, Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: **ACCEPT GRANTS FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS THROUGHOUT CITY FROM THE HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (HSIP), THE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (ATP), AND CALTRANS PLANNING**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

- 1) Approve a Resolution accepting grants received for City transportation projects; and
- 2) Approve a Resolution authorizing the Public Works Director to execute agreements related to the *Caltrans Sustainable Communities Transportation Planning Grant*.

DISCUSSION:

City staff actively seeks funding opportunities to help support transportation infrastructure projects. Staff requests Council to consider acceptance of grants awarded to the City. The City recently received grant awards for several projects:

Grant Program: Highway Safety Improvements Program (HSIP). This program awards federal funds to projects that improve safety on streets. It requires applicants to provide data that supports safety improvements and provides a list of counter-measures that a city will use to address problems identified. Awards are based on benefit-cost ratios of projects. The grant program requires a 10% match of local funds.

1. Alisal Complete Streets Corridor (Grant Award: \$2,340,090)

Funds Phase 1 construction of project on West Alisal Street from Blanco Road to Front Street). The project uses a road diet to improve safety along the corridor including traffic signal upgrades to improve safety at intersections. Improvements to pedestrian and bicycle travel are included in this project. Funds received are mostly for construction. The project's design phase is funded with an earlier grant from the Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC), which provides the local match for this grant.

A second phase of the project continues mobility improvements on West Alisal Street and on Lincoln Avenue from West Alisal Street to the Salinas Train Station. Construction funding for Phase 2 is still being sought but this funding need does not prevent Phase 1 from moving forward.

2. **North Main Street Intersection Improvements** (Grant Award: \$585,810)

Installs a traffic signal at the intersection of North Main Street and Navajo Street. The project includes median work to restrict uncontrolled left turns from Chaparral Street to North Main Street. The traffic signal improvements include crosswalks at Navajo Street and integration into the North Main Street corridor signal progression. The project will need a \$65,090 local match. Local match for the design phase (\$10,000) will come from City gas tax (CIP 9654). Staff will identify the local match for the construction phase at award of contract.

Grant Program: Active Transportation Program (ATP). This federal and State funded program aims to encourage active living through appropriate transportation systems design. The program also has a focus on improving routes to school in order to create safe streets that improves active travel to school. The grant program supports complete streets concepts. The grant program does not require a local match.

1. **Bardin Road Safe Routes to School** (Grant Award: \$4,430,000)

Conversion of Bardin Road from 4-lane to 2-lanes with pedestrian and bicycle improvements, two roundabouts and sidewalk improvements. Provides long awaited improvements near Bardin Elementary School.

2. **Alvin Drive and Linwood Drive Safe Routes to School** (Grant Award: \$2,959,000)

Includes a road diet on Alvin Drive with enhanced crosswalks, signalization and improvements for pedestrian and bicycle travel. Improvements along route to schools for 3 elementary schools, a high school and a middle school.

Grant Program: Sustainable Communities Transportation Planning Grant. The program provides planning grants for projects that support Caltrans' mission which in turn supports a sustainable transportation system with goals that include multimodal mobility, accessibility for all users, vibrant economy, fosters livable and healthy communities and practice of environmental stewardship.

1. **East Alisal Complete Streets Plan** (Grant Award: \$260,782)

Transportation Facilities Planning in support of the Alisal Vibrancy Plan. Project focuses on the Alisal Street corridor from Hartnell's East Campus to West Campus. The project aims to improve street for all users. Includes funding for public outreach with partners from the Local Government Commission and Building Healthy Communities. The grant includes a local match requirement of 11.47% which is met by the City's current budget on the Alisal Vibrancy Study/Plan.

This grant program requires a recent Council Resolution stating the title of the person authorized to enter into a contract with Caltrans for this grant. Council's Resolution 17926,

dated June 4, 2002, authorizes the Public Works Director to execute agreements with the State Department of Transportation (Cal Trans) related to Council approved grants. Thus a second Resolution is included affirming Resolution 17926 for the specific purpose of meeting this grant's requirements.

ISSUE:

Shall the Council accept these grants for local transportation projects?

FISCAL IMPACT:

The grants provide initial or supplemental funding for City projects. With Council's acceptance of these grants, staff requests the following appropriations to the City CIP budget.

Project (CIP No.)	Appropriation of Grant Funds
Alisal Street Complete Streets Corridor (CIP 9090) Local Match: Met Requirement.	\$2,340,090 Match Appropriation: \$0
North Main Street Intersection Improvements (New CIP) Local Match: For Design Phase	\$585,810 New Match (from 9654): \$10,000
Bardin Road Safe Routes to School (CIP 9218) Local Match: None required.	\$4,430,000 Match Appropriation: \$0
Alvin Drive/Linwood Drive Safe Routes to School (CIP 9219) Local Match: None required.	\$2,959,000 Match Appropriation: \$0
East Alisal Street Complete Streets Plan (CIP 9246) Local Match: Met Requirement.	\$260,782 Match Appropriation: \$0

TIME CONSIDERATIONS:

The first step in the use of these grants is working with the State to receive authorization to use grant funds which requires the City's formal acceptance of these grants. Staff would like to receive Council's acceptance so these preliminary efforts may begin.

ALTERNATIVES/IMPLICATIONS:

Council may decide not to accept all or any of the grants. This is not recommended since these grants support Council goals and will help City's delivery of improved infrastructure to its residents.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS:

Securing grant funds for transportation projects supports all goals of the City Council, in particular the goal of Excellent Infrastructure.

CONCLUSIONS:

At its meeting on August 16, 2016, Council is requested to approve:

- 1) a Resolution accepting these recently awarded grants for transportation projects; and
- 2) a Resolution authorizing the Public Works Director to execute agreements related to the *Caltrans Sustainable Communities Transportation Planning Grant*.

Back Up Pages:

Report Exhibits – Site Maps

Resolution Accepting Grants

Resolution Designating Authority

Copy of Resolution 17926