



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: JUNE 5, 2007

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: PROPOSED FLOOD CONTROL CHANNEL MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL

DATE: MAY 23, 2007

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT - TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: PETER NAGHAVI, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES MANAGER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: PETER NAGHAVI, TRANSPORTATION SERVICES MANAGER - (714) 754-5182

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Direct staff to commence preliminary design concepts plans, and conduct a public outreach program regarding a multipurpose pedestrian and bicycle trail along the Paularino Channel and Santa Ana/Delhi Flood Control Channels.
2. Approve Budget Adjustment No. 07-078 in the amount of \$75,000 to appropriate funds from AB 2766 Air Quality Improvement Fund into a new capital improvement project account for preliminary design, and public outreach for this project.
3. Direct staff to return to Council at the conclusion of project preliminary design/public outreach stage for further consideration.

BACKGROUND:

The Transportation Services Division maintains a citywide Master Plan of Bikeways (MPB). MPB designates three classes of bikeways, and these are:

Class One:

Off-street multidirectional bike trails that provide dedicated concrete or asphalt trails outside traffic lanes.

Class Two:

On-street dedicated (striped) directional bike lanes.

Class Three:

On-street undedicated bike routes that are designated with signs only.

Staff continuously looks for ways to improve and increase such facilities within the City. MPB provides not only these facilities for recreational purposes, but also alternative mode of transportation which results in lower emission issues. In an effort to provide a better east/west connection between the Santa Ana River Regional Trail and the Upper Newport Bay, staff has completed a preliminary investigation of the possibility of utilizing existing flood control maintenance roads for the above purpose.

ANALYSIS:

In August 2006, staff conducted a comprehensive review of all flood control channels in the City and found that only Paularino and Santa Ana/Delhi Channels may be suitable to possibly provide a multipurpose trail on existing and/or improved maintenance roads serving the facility.

The proposed flood control maintenance road facilities will provide a non-continuous walking/bicycle trail from east of Fairview Road, just north of Adams Avenue to Santa Ana Avenue; and then to Irvine Avenue/Upper Newport Bay walking/bicycle trail system.

City staff met with the Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) staff in September 2006 and January 2007 to present this concept. OCFCD staff is supportive of the idea with certain conditions, and believes that the project may be accomplished through a permit and agreement with the County. During field visits in August 2006, staff observed that the Santa Ana Heights Trail through Newport Beach Golf Course was closed at access points on Santa Ana Avenue and Irvine Avenue. Staff has worked with the County of Orange and was successful in reopening of this trail for public access in February 2007.

The Paularino and Santa Ana/Delhi Channels travel directly behind a number of single and multifamily dwellings. Upon Council approval of this item, staff will conduct a comprehensive "outreach" program to introduce this plan to every affected resident and receive their input for further refinement/improvement of this plan. Once the conceptual preliminary design along with "outreach" program is completed, staff will return to the City Council for further consideration. If final approval is given by Council, staff proposes to implement the construction through a phased program and through competitive grant sources as they become available.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

One alternative would be to not proceed with the initial study/design for possible implementation of a multipurpose trail along Paularino and Santa Ana/Delhi Channels, and not approve Budget Adjustment No. 07-078. This action would discontinue staff's efforts to enhance walking and bicycling opportunities through the use of the flood control maintenance facilities.

A second alternative would be to direct staff to continue efforts in finding other possible on and off-street bike lane and bike trail opportunities that do not require the use of existing flood control channels' maintenance roads.

FISCAL REVIEW:

AB 2766 Air Quality Improvement allocations may be used to fund this project. The attached Budget Adjustment No. 07-078 in the amount of \$75,000 will appropriate adequate funds into a capital improvement project account for development of preliminary design and public outreach activities.

LEGAL REVIEW:

There is no legal review required on this item.

CONCLUSION:

Transportation Services staff have visited all flood control channel maintenance roads within the City and have determined that the Paularino and Santa Ana/Delhi Channels have the potential to provide a multipurpose trail to connect the Santa Ana River Regional Trail to the Upper Newport Bay Trail System. Staff recommends that the City Council direct staff to commence the preliminary design and public “outreach” for a multipurpose pedestrian and bicycle trail along the proposed route. Staff further requests Council approval of the attached Budget Adjustment No. 07-078 to proceed with the above tasks.

PETER NAGHAVI

Transportation Services Manager

WILLIAM J. MORRIS

Director of Public Services

MARC R. PUCKETT

Director of Finance

ATTACHMENTS: 1 [Budget Adjustment No. 07-078](#)
 2 [Flood Control Channels Map](#)
 3 [Master Plan of Bikeways](#)
 4 [Proposed Multipurpose Trail](#)

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