



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2007

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES PROGRAM PROJECT APPLICATIONS

DATE: OCTOBER 2, 2007

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT - TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: WILLIAM J. MORRIS, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES

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

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt resolution approving submittal of projects under the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) Transportation Enhancement (TE) Activities Program for Fiscal Years 2008-2010 (Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND:

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) issued a "Call for Projects" for the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Activities program. The TE program is a federal grant program, first authorized under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991 and subsequently reauthorized under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) in 1998, and the Safe Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The TE program provides grants to local and state agencies within Orange County to be used for transportation-related projects that enhance quality-of-life, in or around transportation facilities. OCTA is responsible for selecting regionally significant projects for Orange County and working with the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in administering selected projects. A total of \$6 million in funding is allocated countywide to the TE program for fiscal years 2008-09 and 2009-10.

ANALYSIS

Projects that qualify for TE program include landscape and scenic beautification projects such as median landscaping, gateway plantings to communities, architectural treatments and artwork at gateway entrances. The TE program requires a minimum local match of 25 percent of the total project cost. The maximum grant funding provided to any project is \$500,000.

Staff has submitted five project applications for potential funding under the TE program. However, OCTA requires City Council approval of the attached resolution prior to any further consideration of the applications.

Proposed projects for which funding applications were submitted are briefly described below:

- Downtown Costa Mesa Gateway Landscape Improvement on SR-55 Freeway:

This project includes landscape and hardscape enhancements to the SR-55 Freeway in the median and shoulder areas immediately north of 19th Street. The improvements include replacing the existing temporary k-rail concrete barrier and metal beam guard rail with a permanent concrete barrier with architectural treatments, a new city-entry monument sign and re-landscaping of the median and shoulder areas with new shrubs, groundcover and trees.

Total project cost –\$726,000

Grant amount requested – \$500,000

Caltrans contribution for barrier – Approximately \$150,000

City match - \$76,000 (estimated)

- Joann Street Bicycle Trail:

This project includes construction of new fencing along Joann Street Bicycle Trail, and installation of new irrigation and landscaping along the Harbor Boulevard bike trail between Fair Drive and Joann Street and along Joann Street Bicycle Trail.

Total project cost - \$1,000,000

Grant amount requested - \$500,000

Local match - \$500,000 (estimated)

- Fairview/I-405 Landscape Enhancement Project:

This project includes enhanced landscape improvements at Fairview Road/I-405 Interchange that would be constructed in conjunction with the Fairview/I-405 Interchange Widening project.

Total project cost - \$726,000

Grant amount requested - \$500,000

Local match - \$226,000 (estimated)

- Susan Street/Harbor Boulevard Ramps at I-405 Landscape Enhancement Project:

This project includes enhanced landscape improvements at the new Susan Street Exit Ramp as well as planting of additional trees at the Harbor Boulevard/I-405 Interchange. This project enhances the proposed landscape improvements planned by Caltrans at the Harbor Boulevard/I-405 Interchange over the next few months.

Total project cost - \$360,000

Grant amount requested - \$250,000

Local match - \$110,000 (potential developer contribution)

- South Coast Drive Landscape Enhancement Project:

This project intends to provide significant landscape improvements to South Coast Drive in the vicinity of the I-405 northbound offramp. The project includes planting of new shrubs adjacent to recently constructed sidewalk on the south side of the street and enhancing the intersection of South Coast Drive/I-405 northbound offramp.

Total project cost - \$80,000

Grant amount requested - \$55,000

Local match - \$25,000 (potential developer contribution)

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternatives considered include the option of not adopting the resolution. This would result in making the City being ineligible to compete for available grant funding.

FISCAL REVIEW:

If project applications are approved for funding, staff will recommend a funding source for any required local match in the fiscal year 2008-09 budget. Sources for matching funds potentially include park development funds, current budget allocation for streetscape and median developments, street improvement funds, and Measure M GMA (Growth Management Area) funds. In addition, projects will have funding participation from other sources such as Caltrans and private developers, which count towards local match.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney’s office has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form.

CONCLUSION:

The current “Call for Projects” is an opportunity for the City to compete for grant funding for implementation of significant streetscape and landscape improvement projects at major entryways to the City. Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution for submittal of five (5) project applications to OCTA under the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Activities program.

PETER NAGHAVI
Transportation Services Manager

WILLIAM J. MORRIS
Director of Public Services

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ATTACHMENT: 1 [Resolution](#)