



REPORT to the MAYOR and MEMBERS of the CITY COUNCIL  
From the CITY MANAGER

DATE: October 26, 2021

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the Submittal of a Grant Application to the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program Through the California Department of Transportation to Fund the Spring Street Transit Station Multimodal Access Plan; and if Awarded, Accepting and Appropriating Funds; and Appointing the City Manager, or Designee, to Execute All Agreements and Any Amendments for the Project

ISSUING DEPT: Public Works

SUMMARY:

Issues:

Should the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the submittal of an application to the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program through the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to fund the Spring Street Transit Station Multimodal Access Plan; accepting and appropriating funds if awarded; and appointing the City Manager, or designee, to execute all agreements and any amendments?

Recommendation:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the submittal of an application to the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program through Caltrans to develop a Spring Street Transit Station Multimodal Access Plan; accepting and appropriating funds if awarded; and appointing the City Manager, or designee, to execute all agreements and any amendments.

Fiscal Impact:

The total estimated cost for the project is \$200,000. The City is requesting \$176,000 in Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant funds from Caltrans for the project. If awarded, the City would provide \$24,000 (12%) of the total project budget in matching funds. If the grant is awarded, matching funds are available in Capital Improvement Project, Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA) 302217FT. If the actual amount of the award is more or less than the amount estimated, the budget and local match shall be adjusted to the actual amount awarded.

City's Strategic Goals:

- Effective and efficient traffic circulation and transportation
- Revitalize neighborhoods and corridors

- Enhance recreation and quality of life opportunities

Climate Action Plan Reduction Strategy:

This item supports implementation of CAP measure T-1, which encourages active transportation options through the planning and development of safe active transportation infrastructure and facilities within the City.

BACKGROUND:

The Sustainable Communities (SC) Grant Program was created to support Caltrans' stated mission of providing a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system across the state. In 2019, the City applied for and was awarded funds through this program for Segment 1 of the La Mesa Boulevard Complete Streets Plan (LMBCSP) and was subsequently awarded SC funds for Segment 2 earlier this year. In 2018 the Community Development Department received SC funds for the study of Smart Growth/Transit Oriented Development opportunities at this same site, this effort is scheduled to be completed in early 2022.

DISCUSSION:

Under the FY 2022-23 SC Grant Program funding opportunity, approximately \$34 million in competitive grant funds will be available statewide for planning projects. City staff identified a need to improve access to the Spring Street Transit Station to reduce reliance on the automobile and promote low carbon impact modes of transportation through improved pedestrian routes, bicycle lanes/trails, micromobility (electric bikes/scooters) and transit infrastructure. Improved access by alternate modes will encourage more active transportation, increase safety and mobility for non-motorized users, and advance sustainability efforts including reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and overall Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).

The City's proposed project under the Grant Program includes the analysis and planning required to improve access to the Spring Street Transit Station by all modes of travel, while emphasizing and promoting low carbon impact and active modes of transportation.

If awarded, the project objectives and deliverables would include:

- Creation of an Access Plan or "roadmap" to improve access to the station by multiple low-impact modes of transportation to provide transportation choices that are better for the environment and health of the community;
- Development of a Project Study Report for the High Street Crossing, evaluating the technical aspects, providing costing for two alternatives (undercrossing and overcrossing) and providing a recommendation for the preferred alternative;
- Engagement, education and obtainment of community and stakeholder input through the preparation of an Access Plan to encourage mode shift from auto-centric travel to utilizing active and low-impact transportation modes; and
- Development of an Access Plan for the creation of a safe, convenient and welcoming environment to encourage people to park their cars and instead choose to walk, bike or ride public transportation.

Implementation of the Access Plan would improve walkability, increase transit and bicycle use, and improve safety. This Plan is wholly consistent with Vision Zero principles and would support the City's goal of eliminating traffic collisions involving serious injury for all modes of travel. Connections would be improved to regional transit/trolley stations, healthcare services, major retail centers and regional employment centers. If funded, implementation of the Access Plan would support City's the goals of the City's Climate Action Plan by reducing emissions and vehicle miles traveled. It should be noted that SANDAG has designated the site as a Potential Community Center (LM-7) Smart Growth Opportunity Area, making it eligible for regional Smart Growth grant funding.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the submittal of an application to the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program through Caltrans to develop the Spring Street Transit Station Multimodal Access Plan; accepting and appropriating funds if awarded; and appointing the City Manager, or designee, to execute all agreements and any amendments.

Reviewed by:

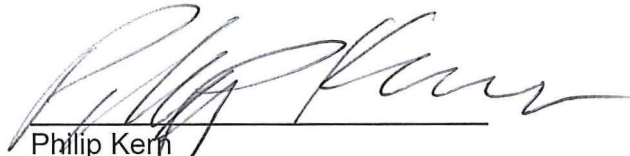


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Gregory Humora  
City Manager

Respectfully submitted by:



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Leon Firsh  
Director of Public Works/City Engineer



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Philip Kern  
Engineering Project Manager

Attachment:      A. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA MESA AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO FUND THE SPRING STREET TRANSIT STATION MULTIMODAL ACCESS PLAN, AND IF AWARDED, ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS; AND APPOINTING THE CITY MANAGER, OR DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE ALL AGREEMENTS AND ANY AMENDMENTS FOR THE PROJECT

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WHEREAS, \$34 million in funding is available to jurisdictions through the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program for the FY 2022-23 funding cycle;

WHEREAS, the City of La Mesa wishes to receive \$176,000 in grant funding from Caltrans for the completion of the Spring Street Transit Station Multimodal Access Plan;

WHEREAS, the City of La Mesa certifies that it has adopted a Complete Streets Policy or the equivalent in the 2012 General Plan Update in a public hearing on July 9, 2013, that is consistent with the California Complete Streets Act;

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2018 the City of La Mesa has adopted a Vision Zero policy with the stated goal of eliminating deaths and serious injuries due to traffic collisions; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Mesa adopted a Climate Action Plan in March 2018, which establishes a goal to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 53% and reduce vehicle miles traveled by 6% by 2035 through infrastructure improvements and other programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of La Mesa, California, that the City is authorized to submit an application to Caltrans for the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program in the amount of \$176,000 to fund the Spring Street Transit Station Multimodal Access Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if a grant award is made by Caltrans to fund the Spring Street Transit Station Multimodal Access Plan, the City of La Mesa commits to providing \$24,000 in matching funds from Capital Improvement Project, Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA), and authorizes the City Manager or a designee to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the City, if awarded the grant, appropriates the funds in the amount of \$176,000 for the Spring Street Transit Station Multimodal Access Plan, provided however, that if the actual revenue received from the source specified should be more or less than the amount set forth herein, that the appropriations shall be adjusted to the amount actually received.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of La Mesa, California, held the 26<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

CERTIFICATE OF CITY CLERK

I, MEGAN WIEGELMAN, City Clerk of the City of La Mesa, California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of Resolution No. 2021-\_\_, duly passed and adopted by the City Council of said City on the date and by the vote therein recited.

MEGAN WIEGELMAN, CMC, City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)

**CERTIFICATE OF CITY/DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

Certification of Unappropriated Reserves

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the money required for the appropriation of funds for the purpose as docketed is available in the Treasury, or is anticipated to come into the Treasury, and is otherwise unappropriated.

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Finance  
City of La Mesa

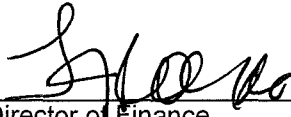
Date \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_

Unappropriated Reserves Available Balance \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Certification of Unencumbered Balance

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the indebtedness and obligation as docketed can be incurred; that sufficient monies to meet the obligations are actually in the Treasury, or are anticipated to come into the Treasury to the credit of the appropriation from which the same are to be drawn; and that said monies now actually in the treasury, together with the monies anticipated to come into the Treasury, to the credit of said appropriation are otherwise unencumbered.

Amount Not to Exceed      \$24,000.00

  
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Director of Finance  
City of La Mesa

Date:      10/19/2021                      By:      Leon Firsh

Fund:      Dept./Activity:  
302217      6830                      \$24,000.00 from account 302217FT-6830 (amount available \$200,420.00)  
FT

Purpose:                      Resolution of the Council of the City of La Mesa Authorizing Submittal of a Grant Application to the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program Through the California Department of Transportation to Fund the Spring Street Transit Station Multimodal Access Plan, and if Awarded, Accepting and Appropriating Funds; and Appointing the City Manager, or Designee, to Execute all Agreements and any Amendments for the Project.