



MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Brian Pedrotti, Community Development Director

BY: Robin Dickerson, PE, City Engineer

SUBJECT: Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Community Development Director to Execute any Agreements for the Use of Grant Funds for the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Regarding Preparation of the Active Transportation Plan

DATE: June 28, 2022

SUMMARY OF ACTION:

Authorizing the Community Development Director to execute the necessary agreements for the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant (STPG) will allow City staff to complete the necessary conditions of grant approval and move forward retaining a consultant to prepare the Active Transportation Plan (ATP).

IMPACT ON FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES:

The City has added the ATP to the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget for FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 that Council approved on June 14, 2022. The total project budget is \$250,000, which includes \$221,325 from the STPG funds and the required City 11.47% match funds in the amount of \$28,675 from Local Sales Tax Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Community Development Director to execute any agreements and amendments as required for the use of STPG funds as approved by the City Council.

BACKGROUND:

The California Legislature passed, and Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed into law, Senate Bill 1 (SB 1, Beall, Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017), known as the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, a transportation funding bill to provide a reliable source of funds to maintain and integrate the State's multi-modal transportation system. In addition to the \$9.5 million in traditional State and federal grants, approximately \$25 million in SB 1 funds for Sustainable Communities Grants, which includes the STPG, is available for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 grant cycle. The period of grant funding availability spans

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over three fiscal years and approximately 27 months for project activities after the grant agreement is executed and Caltrans issues a Notice to Proceed.

The SB 1 grant funding is intended to support and implement Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) where applicable, and to ultimately achieve the State's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target of 40 and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and 2050, respectively.

The STPG Program was created to support the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) Mission to *"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment."*

Eligible planning projects must have a transportation nexus per Article XIX, Sections 2 and 3, of the California Constitution. Therefore, successful planning projects are expected to directly benefit the multi-modal transportation system. These grants will also improve public health, social equity, environmental justice, the environment, and provide other important community benefits.

On July 27, 2021 (Attachment 3), the City Council adopted the Circulation Element Update. Recommendations for active transportation modes and components were embedded throughout the update, including a specific recommendation to prepare an Active Transportation Plan.

On October 12, 2021 (Attachment 4), the City Council signed a letter of support for the submission of the STPG application to prepare an ATP. City staff, on behalf of the City of Arroyo Grande, prepared and submitted a grant application on October 27, 2021. On April 4, 2022 the City of Arroyo Grande received a conditional letter of award (Attachment 2) for the STPG funding in the amount of \$221,325.

ANALYSIS OF ISSUES:

The City received a conditional letter of award for the STPG funding which included several general conditions and some special conditions. Staff responded to the request prior to the due date of June 3, 2022. One general condition remains outstanding and is due by July 3, 2022. The general condition requires a current Local Resolution, signed by the governing board that includes the grant title and job title of the person authorized to enter into a contract with Caltrans. This document is required to be submitted to Caltrans by July 3, 2022. The approval of this Resolution will allow staff to complete the necessary requirements for award and move forward executing the agreements and prepare the Request for Qualifications to award a contract to a consultant for preparation of an ATP for the City.

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ALTERNATIVES:

The following alternatives are provided for the Council's consideration:

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing the Community Development Director to execute any agreements or amendments required for the use of grant funds as approved by the City Council;
2. Modify and adopt the Resolution authorizing the Community Development Director to execute any agreements necessary for the use of grant funds; or
3. Provide other direction to staff.

ADVANTAGES:

The Resolution (Attachment 1) will fulfill the last condition required before the agreements can be executed, making the funds available and allowing City staff to retain a consultant to prepare the ATP. Authorizing the Community Development Director to execute the necessary agreements for the STPG with Caltrans will reduce staff resources necessary for preparing staff reports to execute the agreements, and will reduce the time needed to execute and return the documents. This will allow the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) to continue forward with minimal interruption or delay.

DISADVANTAGES:

Considerable staff time will be necessary to administer the grant and oversee the consultant developing the plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Community Development Department has determined that the ATP is statutorily exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code, Section 21080.25, which applies to active transportation plans. Further, environmental review is not required for the execution of the resolution. Future individual projects will have their own environmental document.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND COMMENTS:

The Agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

Attachments:

1. Proposed Resolution
2. Caltrans Conditional Letter of Award
3. [July 27, 2021 Staff Report and Attachments](#)
4. [October 12, 2021 Staff Report and Attachments](#)