



Agenda Item 9.B

Approvals:

City Manager [Signature]

Dept. Head [Signature]

Attorney [Signature]

Finance [Signature]

AGENDA REPORT

SAN CLEMENTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Meeting Date: October 20, 2015

Department: Public Works / Engineering
Prepared By: Tom Frank, Transportation Engineering Manager

Subject: *SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS.*

Fiscal Impact: Yes. If the City is awarded and accepts grant funding, the General Fund unassigned fund balance would be reduced by \$50,600.

Summary: Staff recommends City Council consideration to submit two project grant funding applications under the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program as discussed in this report.

Background: The Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program is intended to promote a balanced, comprehensive multimodal transportation system, and grants under this program may be used for a wide range of transportation planning purposes to address local and regional transportation needs and issues. The goal of these grants is to ultimately lead to the adoption, initiation, and programming of transportation improvements.

Caltrans is soliciting applications for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-2017 grant funding cycle. Funding is subject to State budget approval, but if available successful grant recipients would begin grant-funded work in FY 2016-2017. This grant program is supported by Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and State Highway Account funds, and requires an 11.47% local match of the total project amount. The grant minimum is \$50,000 and the maximum is \$500,000. Staff recommends City Council consideration to submit up to two project applications as discussed below.

Discussion: Example project types provided in the grant guidelines include the following:

- Studies that assist transportation agencies in creating sustainable communities.
- Community to school studies or safe routes to school plans.
- Bike and pedestrian safety enhancement plans.
- Traffic calming and safety enhancement plans.

For this grant project solicitation, there are two potential projects that are consistent with grant guidelines, including a study for potential improvements at the I-5 interchanges within the City and a study for a possible Class I Bicycle/Pedestrian Path along the Segunda Deschecha (M02) channel as briefly summarized below.

I-5 Interchanges Improvements Study. This potential study would evaluate the I-5 interchanges and on- and off-ramps within the City to identify potential improvements to help balance all modes of transportation and improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. An example of an issue that would be evaluated is the presence of long pedestrian crossing distances at the freeway ramps and methods to improve these conditions. The I-5/Pico interchange is currently being reconstructed and already includes improvements compared to the existing condition, however it would still be given a review under the proposed study to determine if any further improvements might be appropriate. The total estimated cost for the study is \$200,000, which would require a local match of about 11.5 percent (\$23,000) from the General Fund.

M02 Class I Bicycle and Pedestrian Path. This potential study was suggested by PEDal¹ and would evaluate the feasibility of a Class I bicycle and pedestrian path along the M02 channel from North Beach (Pico/El Camino Real area) to Camino Vera Cruz. There is already an existing Class I path along Pico (Plaza Pacifica Shopping Center frontage) from Vera Cruz to La Pata. The total estimated cost for the study is \$240,000, which would require a local match of about 11.5 percent (\$27,600) from the General Fund.

The studies would facilitate collaboration with project stakeholders to identify key issues and develop and evaluate potential conceptual designs for constructability, environmental, permitting, right-of-way/easement and feasibility issues. These studies would support future detailed environmental and engineering analyses, funding, and construction. They will identify existing and future goals, conditions, and obstacles within the context of regional growth projections, recommend solutions, and estimate costs. The studies will also assist in pursuing any future grant funding opportunities for subsequent design and construction phases.

The proposed projects are consistent with the City's Centennial General Plan and support goals and implementation measures of the General Plan Mobility Element. The projects would also implement specific recommendations from the City's adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan which addresses Safe Routes to School issues and needs.

Recommended Approach

This grant program allows for "strategic partnerships" in which agencies may partner on grant projects. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is a regional metropolitan planning organization that may serve as a primary recipient under these grants, which means SCAG would serve as Project Manager and potentially provide the required local grant funding match. However, SCAG staff have indicated that it is unlikely that SCAG will be able to provide the funding match. Given this, staff recommends that the City should be the primary applicant so that grant projects would be managed by City staff since the City would be providing the required funding matches. Also, this report has presented two potential project studies for which applications could be submitted. However, given projected staff workloads for

¹ PEDal is an independent group founded by San Clemente resident Brenda Miller to advocate for a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly town that encourages efficient and safe travel by non-motorized means.

FY 2016-2017, staff would only be able to manage one of these studies. In this case staff recommends that the I-5 Interchanges study be given highest priority so that these can be evaluated for important safety improvements. If the City Council also desires to pursue the M02 Class I path study, staff may need to delay other work activities (e.g. responses to citizen traffic complaints/traffic calming requests may be delayed).

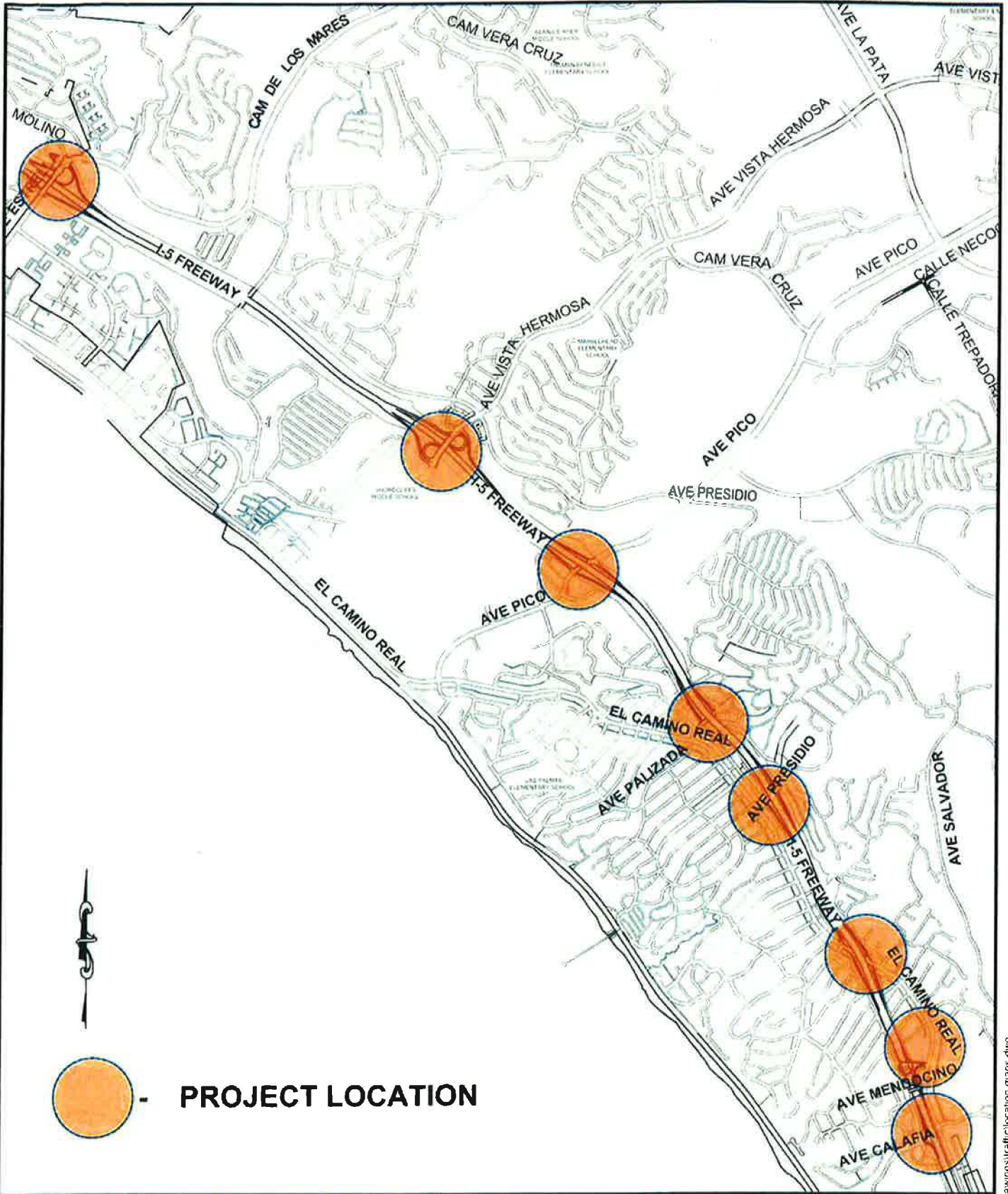
Recommended**Action:**

STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the City Council approve and authorize the City Manager to sign and submit a Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program funding application for the I-5 Interchanges Study, and provide direction on whether to also submit a grant funding application for evaluation of a M02 Class I Bicycle/Pedestrian Path.

Attachments: Location Maps (2).

Notification: PEDal.

S:\cd\Engineering\secure\Admin\2015 Admins\10-20-2015\10-20-15-1r.docx



 - PROJECT LOCATION



Prepared in the office of
City of San Clemente
 Engineering Division 910 Calle Negocio
 Suite 100
 San Clemente, CA 92073
 Tel (949) 361-6118
 Fax (949) 361-8516

LOCATION MAP
 CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT STUDY
 FOR
 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

