

**City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: 01/14/2013		Item Number: <u>C-4</u>	
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: Authorization to Submit a Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority 2013 Call for Projects Grant Application for the Higuera Street Bridge Ramp Project.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Helen Kerstein/PW		Phone Number: (310) 253-5618	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☐ Attachments: ☐	
Commission Action Required: Yes ☐ No ☒		Date: _____	
Public Notification: (E-mail) Agenda and Meetings – City Council (01/09/13); (Mail) Property owners, occupants, and businesses within 1,000 ft. of site (12/31/2012); (E-mail) Bicycle and Pedestrian Listserv (12/31/2012); (E-mail) Culver City Bicycle Coalition (12/31/2012); (E-mail) Baldwin Hills Conservancy (12/31/2012); (E-mail) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (12/31/2012).			
Department Approval: Charles D. Herbertson (12/24/12)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (01/09/13)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by K. Marsden) (01/09/13)		City Manager Approval: John M. Nachbar (01/09/13)	

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council authorize the City Manager to submit a Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) 2013 Call for Projects (Call) grant application for the Higuera Street Bridge Ramp Project.

BACKGROUND:

Metro is responsible for allocating local, state, and federal discretionary transportation funds through the preparation of a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Los Angeles County. A key component of the TIP is Metro's Call for Projects grant program.

Approximately every other year, Metro accepts Call for Projects applications in a variety of modal categories. Currently, these categories include: Regional Surface Transportation; Goods Movement Improvements; Signal Synchronization & Bus Speed Improvements; Transportation Demand Management; Bikeway Improvements; Pedestrian Improvements; Transit Capital; and Transportation Enhancement Activities.

The 2013 Metro Call for Projects applications are due on January 18, 2013. The City Council has authorized the submittal of two other grant applications as part

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of the 2013 Call for Projects: the Transportation Department's Compressed Natural Gas Bus Replacement Project (in the Transit Capital category) and the Public Works Department's Citywide Synchronized and Optimized Traffic Signal Timing Plans with Selected Traffic Volume Count Stations Project (Signal Synchronization & Bus Speed Improvements category).

DISCUSSION:

Staff is proposing to apply for the Higuera Street Bridge Ramp Project in the Bikeway Improvements category. The Ballona Creek Bike Path is an important resource for the region, providing roughly 7 miles of separated Class I paths. Currently, there is roughly a 1.1 mile distance between the existing ramps to the Ballona Creek Bike Path at National Boulevard and Duquesne Avenue. The construction of a ramp at Higuera Street will create an intermediate access point that will improve connectivity between destinations such as the Hayden Tract, Expo Light Rail Station and Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook and the Ballona Creek Bike Path. In so doing, this project should make cycling and other non-motorized transportation modes more attractive options.

It is preferable to construct the proposed ramp at the same time as the Higuera Street Bridge is replaced in order to minimize construction impacts and ensure that the two structures are complementary. In October 2012, the Public Works Department released a Request for Proposals for the preparation of final design/construction plans and specifications for the replacement Higuera Street Bridge and proposed ramp. Staff is anticipating awarding the design contract in late January or early February and commencing design work shortly thereafter. Construction is likely to begin in Fiscal Year 2014/2015. If the Metro Call funds are secured for the construction of the ramp through this application, staff anticipates requesting that the funds be advanced, if possible, to Fiscal Year 2014/2015 in order to facilitate the construction coordination.

The proposed ramp is consistent with existing City plans. The construction of a ramp at Higuera Street was suggested in the Ballona Creek and Trail Focused Special Study (2004). Also, the pursuit of grant funding for the design and construction of a ramp at the Higuera Street Bridge to the Ballona Creek Bike Path was identified as an action item in the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2010).

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FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The project is anticipated to cost roughly \$750,000. Should Metro approve the application, the City will need to provide 20 percent in local matching funds for the project. Staff anticipates that the matching funding for this project will come from sources such as Gas Tax. As funding is not anticipated for several years, staff anticipates that there will be sufficient time to plan for the allocation of the necessary funds and to seek additional grants for matching funds, as feasible. Furthermore, there will be some ongoing maintenance costs associated with the project. These costs will vary depending on the amount of landscaping that is associated with the project, but are anticipated to be roughly \$4,000 per year.

MOTIONS:

That the City Council

Authorize the City Manager to submit a Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) 2013 Call for Projects (Call) grant application for the Higuera Street Bridge Ramp Project.