

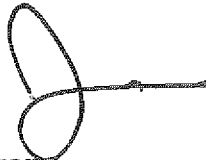
**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: October 18, 2011

TO: The Honorable City Council, City of Los Angeles  
c/o City Clerk, Room 395  
Attention: Honorable Bill Rosendahl, Chair  
Transportation Committee

FROM: Jaime de la Vega, General Manager  
Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: **Tiger Discretionary Grant Program**



**Summary**

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), with support and expertise provided by the Department of Public Works, seeks to submit a funding application for the US Department of Transportation's (DOT's) TIGER Discretionary Grants (TIGER III). The Los Angeles River Bikeway Network project will link Downtown LA to the San Fernando Valley and to Long Beach via a single contiguous bikeway corridor. Key bikeways will create networks for an on-street route through downtown LA to tie the bikeway into the Los Angeles' region's transportation and economic center.

**Recommendation**

That the City Council:

1. Authorize LADOT to submit a TIGER Discretionary Grant application for the construction of bikeways on and supporting the Los Angeles River Bikeway Network project.

**Discussion**

In July of 2011, the US Department of Transportation issued an Interim Notice of Funding Availability for the DOT's National Infrastructure Investments Under the Full-year Continuing Appropriations better known as the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program. LADOT began work on the development of a grant application for funding to provide a skeletal build out of the Los Angeles River Bikeway. This project is supported by the Los Angeles Bicycle Plan Policy 3.3.1 B which seeks to "Prioritize the design and construction of the bicycle path along the Los Angeles River."

Based on previously constructed segments of the Los Angeles River Bicycle Path it is believed this project will have minimal environmental impacts and that the right-of-way needed to construct the project is already publicly held. The TIGER program requires the completion of right-of-way, environmental and design by June 2013 with immediate commencement of construction. Based on previous Los Angeles River bicycle path projects which received a Categorical Exclusion (CE) finding per NEPA, it is anticipated the Los Angeles River Bikeway Network will meet all of these conditions. The project will provide design and construction jobs, as well as non-motorized transportation opportunities to travel to jobs and destinations via the bikeway network.

**Coordination**

LADOT has established a working group for the project comprised of LADOT Bicycle Program and Grants group, Public Works Bureau of Engineering, Los Angeles River Office and Real Estate Group; and the Bureau of Street Services, Civil Engineering Bikeways Section; and the Trust for Public Land. The group meets weekly to provide expertise and outreach for the project including but not limited to, federal funding requirements, environmental concerns, project scope, right-of-way, design and construction issues, and outreach. The project has significant support including Congressional members Brad Sherman and Lucille Roybal-Allard; State Senator Fran Pavley; Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky; the Cities of Glendale, Burbank, and Vernon, City Councilmembers Paul Krekorian and Tom La Bonge; the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, as well as various community groups, including the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council, GreenLA Coalition, Village Gardeners of the Los Angeles River, Save LA River Open Space, Los Angeles River Artists and Business Association and the Studio City Residents' Association.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Federal funding is sought in the amount of \$13,000,000. The city will provide matching funds in the amount of \$5,000,000 in Local Measure R funds to match the federal grant for a project total of \$18,000,000. It will not have any impact on the city's General Fund.