

MOTION

HOUSING

The neighborhood of Watts is a two square mile area in South Los Angeles home to one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in the city, with over 40,000 residents. With some of the lowest life expectancies in California, and with 42 percent of household incomes below \$20,000, Watts faces staggering public health, economic and environmental challenges. To address these challenges, the Watts community came together to form the Watts Rising Collaborative. The Collaborative consists of over thirty-two partners who utilized resident engagement, community relationships, and leveraged the economic engine of the ongoing Jordan Downs Redevelopment to create a Transformation Plan that includes the execution of 25 urban greening, affordable housing, sustainable development, and transportation projects to create a brighter future for the Watts community. The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) is the lead local government agency managing the implementation of the Transformation Plan.

In January 2018, the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) awarded \$35 million to the Watts Rising Collaborative project as part of the Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC) to fund the development of neighborhood-level transformative climate community plans that provide local economic, environmental, and health benefits to disadvantaged communities. The City is involved in the following Transformation Plan projects: DASH Bus Electrification (Co-applicant), WalkBike Watts (Co-applicant), Central Avenue Streetscape (Leverage only), 103rd Street Streetscape (Leverage only), MegaWatts, Weigand Elementary Urban Trees and Rain Garden, Greening Public Housing, and Greening Watts (Supporting project partner).

The City will be receiving a total of \$6,726,975 of the \$35 million directly from the TCC Grant for the following projects:

- Project #2 DASH Electrification: \$1,713,075 (Department of Transportation is a Co-applicant and will receive funding)
- Project #6 WalkBike Watts: \$4,743,900 (Department of Transportation is a Co-applicant and will receive funding)
- Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity Staff Person - \$270,000 (HACLA will reimburse the Mayor's Office as needed)

SGC will be producing a Grant Agreement and all related policies and requirements will be passed through to all Co-Applicants in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with HACLA. As project partners, the Department of Transportation and the Mayor's Office will need to become a party to this MOU. Authorities and Controller's instructions are also needed for the Department of Transportation to accept the funding from SGC.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council take the following actions:

1. Direct the Department of Transportation and request the Mayor's Office to execute and comply with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles outlining their roles and responsibilities to the Watts Rising Collaborative, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form.
2. Subject to the Approval of the Mayor, authorize the Department of Transportation to take the following actions:
 - a. Accept and obligate an award of \$1,713,075 in State Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) grant funds for the purchase of battery-electric buses and deposit the funds into the Proposition A

Local Return Fund No. 385 and appropriate therein to the "Zero Emission Bus Purchase" Account No. 94MA04; and

- b. Accept and obligate an award of \$4,743,900 in State Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) grant funds for the project development, community engagement, and implementation of walking and biking safety improvements for the Watts Rising Project and deposit the funds into the Transportation Grant Fund No. 655 and appropriate therein to the "Walk Bike Watts" Account Number to be determined.
3. Authorize the Department of Transportation to make necessary technical changes as needed to effectuate the intent of this Motion, subject to review and approval by the City Administrative Officer.

PRESENTED BY:


JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

JUN 22 2018