

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) 2021-2022 Sustainable Communities and Strategic Partnerships Grant Program and recommended projects.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. APPROVE the accompanying attached to the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) report dated January 27, 2021, as the City's priorities for pursuing the Caltrans 2021-2022 Sustainable Communities and Strategic Partnerships Grant.
2. AUTHORIZE the General Manager, LADOT, and/or the Director of the respective lead City department to:
 - a. Submit grant applications to Caltrans on behalf of the City of Los Angeles for all recommended projects for funding through this grant.
 - b. Execute any necessary funding agreements and contractual documents, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality, for projects that are awarded funding through this grant opportunity.
3. DIRECT the General Manager, LADOT, and/or the Director of the respective lead City department to identify any additional resource needs, including staff, and/or overtime funding, for the implementation of the projects that are awarded funding through this grant opportunity, and to seek approval for any additional staffing from Council prior to accepting the grant funds.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The LADOT reports that this grant application has a required minimum local match of 11.47 percent for the Sustainable Communities category and 20 percent for the Strategic Partnerships category. The local match can be a cash match or in-kind match, including staff time. The two proposed projects will require a total of \$160,580 in local match. The LADOT proposes using funds from Proposition C funds, which can credit supporting staff time as contributing to the local match. City staff will provide general project management support with existing staff resources.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

In the January 27, 2021, report to Council, LADOT states that Department staff has reviewed the Caltrans 2021-2022 Sustainable Communities and Strategic Partnerships Grant Program solicitation and identified two eligible projects in the Sustainable Communities category. LADOT and the Bureau of Street Services will submit grant applications for funding consideration by the February 12, 2021 deadline. A total of \$17,000,000 is available through this competitive grant.

The Sustainable Transportation Planning Program call for projects includes two categories: Sustainable Communities and Strategic Partnerships. The Sustainable Communities category of the grant funds projects that encourage multimodal transportation and compatible land uses.

Under this category, LADOT and the Bureau of Street Services propose two projects.

LADOT recommends updating the City's Transportation Demand Forecasting (TDF) model for this grant opportunity because it was last updated in 2016 and LADOT is committed to updating the model every 4-5 years. An updated TDF model is legally mandated under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is the primary tool that staff and practitioners use to estimate future travel demand and potential impacts of land use projects and plans. An updated TDF model also supports the City's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by integrating new datasets that capture current conditions and can evaluate different scenarios and assumptions to inform policy decisions. Additionally, an updated model will help the long-term response to the City's housing crisis by providing the evidence needed to disclose transportation impacts under CEQA for development projects and plans that propose to add sufficient housing capacity to meet the City's housing shortfall.

The Bureau of Street Services seeks funding to develop a criteria database, a prioritization plan, and project proposals to demonstrate the nexus between climate resilience and active transportation, and reduce the impacts of climate change in vulnerable communities. Project proposals will leverage funding opportunities to build multi-benefit projects that increase shade, mitigate urban heat island, improve water quality, and reduce flooding in active transportation corridors.

At its meeting held February 2, 2021, the Transportation Committee recommended that Council approve the proposed projects and authorize LADOT and the Bureau of Street Services to submit grant applications to Caltrans.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE



MEMBER VOTE

BONIN: YES

KORETZ: YES

BUSCAINO: YES

jaw

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-