

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 12/2/04
Department Name: Planning & Development
Department No.: 053
Agenda Date: December 14, 2004
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Valentin Alexeeff, Director
Planning & Development

Phillip Demery, Director
Public Works Department

STAFF CONTACT: George Amoon, 568-2027
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SUBJECT: Caltrans Community Based Transportation Planning Grant Applications

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize Planning & Development and Public Works Department grant application submittals to Caltrans to provide funds for 1) Old Town Orcutt Community Streetscapes Plan, in the amount of \$140,400, Fourth District and 2) Hollister Corridor Community Planning Project, in the amount of \$176,720, Second District; and
2. Authorize the Planning and Development Department Director to sign all documents required for execution of the application.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 1. An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community, Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit and Goal No. 5 A High Quality of Life for All Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

In July 2004, Caltrans issued a request for proposals for the Division of Transportation Planning Fiscal Year (FY) 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 Grants Program. A total of \$6 million in grant funds is estimated to be available for FY 2004/2005 and FY 2005/2006. The overall purpose of the grant program is to provide

funding for transportation planning projects intended to strengthen the economy, promote equity, and protect the environment. Proposed projects should support livable community concepts, promote community identity and quality of life and encourage community involvement and partnership. A local contribution equal to 20% of the grant request is required. If the grant(s) are awarded, a resolution will be required prior to preparing grant contracts.

In preparation for this funding opportunity, Planning & Development and Public Works requests authorization to jointly submit two applications: the Old Town Orcutt Community Streetscapes Plan proposed for the FY 2004/2005 funding cycle and the Hollister Corridor Community Planning Project proposed for the FY 2005/2006 funding cycle. Planning and Development is the lead applicant and Public Works is the sub-recipient for each project. Both projects include funding for a design consultant to assist staff with developing design concepts and also involve extensive community input.

Project Description: Old Town Orcutt Community Streetscapes Plan

Planning & Development, Public Works and the Old Town Orcutt Revitalization Association (OTARA) are working together to revitalize historical Old Town Orcutt. The purpose is to develop Old Town Orcutt into a safe, healthy and alive place for people to work, play, live and invest in. In 1999 with funding from a Community Development Block Grant, Planning & Development successfully completed the preliminary data gathering and research necessary for preparation of an Old Town Orcutt Revitalization Plan. Since that time, no new funding sources for completion of the Revitalization Plan have been found and the project has not been concluded, despite a high level of support in the community for its completion. Therefore, the recent focus by the community and County agencies has been to focus on specific actions identified in the Orcutt Community Plan as incremental steps to revitalize Old Town.

The *Community Based Transportation Planning Grant* presents an opportunity for Old Town Orcutt to continue downtown revitalization through streetscape design and planning workshops focused on Clark Avenue and Broadway. The proposed specific project components include:

1) Streetscape Improvements. Design conceptual streetscape improvements along Clark Avenue and Broadway where the majority of Old Town's commercial development is concentrated. Project design components would include location and type of street trees and appropriate streetscape amenities (planters, bike racks, benches, trash cans, street lighting, etc), identifying sidewalk improvements such as bulb-outs, textured crosswalks and decorative paving as well as filling-in gaps in the network, crosswalk improvements and center medians to provide an attractive thoroughfare that reduces vehicle speeds, improves pedestrian safety and encourages people to shop and linger in Old Town.

2) Transit, Bicycle and Parking Improvements. Analyze alternatives to improve roadway circulation, public transit, parking and bicycle and pedestrian safety/access to and within Old Town. Examine methods to enhance the Clark Avenue corridor, such as widening of sidewalks and improved bicycle amenities. Examine methods to clean up and improve alleyways for 1) new vehicular access in-lieu of curb cut access along Clark's proposed pedestrian core area; and 2) potential use as parking areas or pedestrian walkways. Develop on- and off-street parking opportunities at adjacent north/south streets along Clark Avenue and study intersection/pedestrian compatibility; assess potential locations, design concepts and funding sources for a downtown community parking lot; and coordinate with Santa Maria Area Transit to consider establishment of a shuttle service to and from Old Town.

3) Budget and Funding Schedule. Develop preliminary budgets, funding source options and schedule for implementation of specific project components identified above.

Project Description: Hollister Corridor Community Planning Project

Hollister Avenue is currently proposed for future widening to four lanes from San Antonio Road to east of Modoc Road in order to maintain good traffic circulation. Planning & Development and Public Works propose to prepare with the community conceptual plans for multi-modal and livable community elements to be incorporated into the current four lane design of the project, as well as develop alternatives to the four-lane project, that maintains acceptable levels of service over the long-term. Specific elements to be examined in the project include:

- Design conceptual widened sidewalk and bikeway options given right of way constraints.
- Analyze multi-modal roundabout options at appropriate intersections.
- Design conceptual intersection crossing plans to shorten distances for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross.
- Analyze options to improve an existing midblock school crosswalk to promote safer walking and bicycling to school.
- Coordinate with the Metropolitan Transit District on enhanced transit shelters.
- Prepare a landscape plan that includes abundant shade trees. Include long-term maintenance options.
- Consider alternatives to the four-lane project.

The project will involve bilingual community and stakeholder meetings to ensure public input is incorporated into the conceptual design plans. Public participation in the preparation of the plan will be extensive through public workshops, community meetings and opportunities for the public to comment during Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors hearings. The grant application is attached.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The project is not mandated; however, grant awards would greatly enhance Old Town Orcutt and Hollister Avenue planning efforts. The project is for planning purposes only and would not impact public service levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

If the grant applications are approved, the grants will be included in the requested FY 05-06 and FY 06-07 budgets. The FY 05-06 request for Orcutt Old Town Community Streetscapes Plan will also include a general fund match in the amount of \$17,550 for Planning and Development salaries and a Road Fund match in the amount of \$17,550 for Public Works salaries. The FY 06-07 request for Hollister Corridor Community Planning Project will also include a general fund match in the amount of \$11,000 for Planning and Development salaries and a Road Fund match in the amount of \$33,180 for Public Works salaries.

Special Instructions:

None