

**CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 02/16/10  
Reviewed by: BP

**SUBJECT:** Resolution No. 2010-7 authorizing the City Administrator to enter into a contract with the state of California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) upon receipt of a Community Planning Grant

**REPORT BY:** Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Transportation Planner

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Approve Resolution No. 2010-7 authorizing the City Administrator to enter into a contract with Caltrans upon receipt of a Community-based Transportation Planning Grant for the development of a study for Complete Streets for Buchanan Street, San Pablo Avenue, and the upper segment of Solano Avenue.

**BACKGROUND**

In January 2010, Caltrans issued a Call for Projects for its Transportation Planning Grants for Fiscal Years 2010-11. The Transportation Planning Grants aim at promoting the implementation of a balanced, comprehensive and multimodal transportation system. There are four categories for these grants: Community-based Transportation Planning, Environmental Justice, Partnership Planning, and Transit Planning. Each of these grants is targeted to specific needs and has program-specific issues that address state and federal goals. The Community-based Transportation Planning Grant includes economic revitalization, “complete streets” studies, context-sensitive streetscapes or town center studies or plans among other categories of eligible projects. City staff is interested in pursuing a Community-based Transportation Planning grant to assess the physical improvements that could be implemented along three roadways in the City: Buchanan Street, San Pablo Avenue, and the upper segment of Solano Avenue between Masonic Avenue and the Berkeley City Limits. At the January 28, 2010 Traffic and Safety Commission meeting, staff mentioned this idea under Announcements/Communications. While no action was taken, the Commission’s reaction was positive.

**DISCUSSION**

The City’s Draft Climate Action Plan calls for the inclusion of the concept of Complete Streets in the City of Albany. Complete Streets is a concept developed at the national level encouraging the implementation of streets that accommodate all users of the roadways. The implementation of Complete Street strategies promote walking and bicycling, therefore having the potential of reducing emissions from transportation sources. This is a goal that the City Council adopted in 2007.

In addition, there has long been an interest in working on a plan for physical improvements/enhancement along Solano Avenue and San Pablo Avenue. City staff has been working with the business community on ways to improve the streets and the economic vitality of the City's commercial district.

Currently, Buchanan Street is the subject of a design project that will eventually implement a bicycle path along the south side of Buchanan Street from the intersection of San Pablo Avenue to the Buchanan Bridge Overcrossing. The City is finalizing 35% design and environmental work for this project. However, construction funds for this project have yet to be identified. While this project represents a leap toward accommodating non-motorized users along Buchanan Street, this roadway still needs additional treatment, particularly along its north side.

City staff has been in conversation with Mr. Paul Zykofsky, Director of the Land Use and Transportation Programs of the Local Government Commission, to partner with this agency for the submission of the Community-based Transportation Planning Grant for the three roadways. Mr. Zykofsky visited the proposed project site with staff members and believed the three roadways would make a strong case for a planning grant. He offered his assistance in preparing a proposal for Caltrans and carrying out the planning process if the grant funds are awarded.

The grant submittal requires a resolution from the applicant's governing body stating the title of the person authorized to enter into a contract with Caltrans. The grant submittal deadline is April 1, 2010. Awards are expected to be announced in the summer of 2010.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

A 10% match is required for this grant. Up to one quarter of the 10% match can be in kind. While Mr. Zykofsky was unable to speculate on the grant amount to perform this work, he estimated the planning grant might be as much as \$90,000.

### **Attachment**

City Council Resolution No. 2010-7