

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

Agenda Date: 3/19/2012

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2012-18: A Resolution Of The Albany City Council Authorizing the City Manager to Accept Offers of Dedication of Easement for the Buchanan Bicycle/Pedestrian Path Project from the Albany Unified School District, the University Of California, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

REPORT BY: Judy Lieberman, Projects Director

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. 2012-18, A Resolution Of The Albany City Council Authorizing the City Manager to Accept Offers of Dedication of Easement for the Buchanan Bicycle/Pedestrian Path Project from the Albany Unified School District, the University Of California, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

BACKGROUND

In 2007, the City began working on the design plans for the Buchanan Marin Bicycle pedestrian path connecting the Ohlone Greenway to the San Francisco Bay Trail. This portion of the project was funded with a Measure B grant from Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA). The design plans and environmental documentation were completed in 2010, and a cost estimate of approximately \$3.4 million for the entire segment was developed.

In 2010 the City applied for federal funds to construct the first segment of the project, from the Buchanan overpass to San Pablo Avenue, including the right hand turn lane onto southbound San Pablo Avenue. The funding was approved in late 2010, and resulted in some additional requirements that would not have been part of a State funded project. Specifically, the project required NEPA clearance in addition to CEQA, which had already been completed. The grant also requires final approval by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The City must submit a comprehensive package of documentation to Caltrans for FHWA approval, including full environmental certification, completed plans, specifications and estimates (PS&E), and signed Right of Way documentation.

The NEPA requirement was completed and certified by Caltrans in early March, the PS&E will be completed the week of March 19, 2012, and the City has received the signed Right of Way offer from the Albany Unified School District. The University Right of Way offer is also in process and will likely be completed the week of March 19, 2012. We are

currently in final negotiations with the USDA, but this may take slightly longer. It is imperative that Caltrans receive the completed package of documents as soon as possible in order to achieve FHWA approval by the April 30, 2012 deadline.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

The acceptance of easements will enable the City to construct the Buchanan Marin bicycle and pedestrian path. The path will increase the use of bicycles and the walkability of the City, promoting alternative transportation. The path, the addition of the right hand turn lane from eastbound Marin to southbound San Pablo Avenue, and the modifications to the existing signal will also increase pedestrian and bicycle safety. The path is one of the high priority projects of the City's Active Transportation Plan and the Alameda Countywide Bicycle Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no direct financial impact to the City of accepting the donations of easement. The project itself will be funded by grants and Measure F 2006 funds, as well as other sources. Maintenance of the easements, once the project is completed, will become the city's responsibility, and will have associated costs.

Attachments:

Resolution No. 2012-18

1. Conveyance documents USDA
2. Conveyance documents AUSD
3. Conveyance documents UCB (Temporary Construction Easement)
4. Conveyance documents UCB (bikeway easement)
5. Conveyance documents UCB (roadway dedication)