

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

Agenda Date: 10/20/08
Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution #08-49 endorsing Alameda County Active Transportation 2010 Campaign

REPORT BY: Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Transportation Planner

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. 08-69 endorsing Alameda County Active Transportation 2010 Campaign seeking to create a new federal program as part of the next federal transportation bill.

BACKGROUND

In 2005, SAFETEA-Lu, the federal transportation reauthorization introduced a test program known as the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program. This program allowed for the construction of a network of non-motorized transportation infrastructure facilities in four urban communities to demonstrate to what extent bicycle and walking could play a major role in transportation solutions.

The four communities that were selected were Marin County (CA), Columbia (MO), Minneapolis (MN), and Sheboygan County (WI). Each of them received \$25 million over four years to implement bicycle and pedestrian projects under the new Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program.

Given the success of the pilot program, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, a national non-profit multi-modal transportation advocacy organization is leading a national campaign to expand this program in the next federal transportation reauthorization. The proposal includes at least 40 communities with \$50 million per community over six years to promote “active transportation.”

Alameda County joined the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in this effort and in 2008 developed the Alameda County Active Transportation Plan with the input of several steering and advisory committees representing all areas of the county. The goal is to expand opportunities that will shift people from automobiles to active transportation, such as walking and biking and to promote public transportation options.

DISCUSSION

The next step to advance this program within Alameda County and eventually in Congress is for the interested regions to participate in the national press efforts that Rails-to-Trails Conservancy will be conducting for the release of the National Active Transportation Campaign. In California, there are five communities participating in this effort including, Alameda County, Marin County, Humboldt County, Sacramento County and San Diego County.

For this reason, Alameda County is seeking local jurisdictions' support of this plan. In this way, the National Active Transportation Campaign can increase the opportunities for the Non-Motorized Transportation Program of becoming a permanent program and benefit 40 regions in the Country.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact in supporting this program. If the program is successful, it means increased funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects in the 40 regions selected under this program. Alameda County hopes to be one of the selected regions, therefore, the support of the local jurisdictions is of foremost importance.

Attachments

Resolution No. 08-69

Alameda County Draft Brochure