

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

Agenda Date: 6/15/09

Reviewed by: BP

**SUBJECT:** Pedestrian Master Plan and Bicycle Master Plan update grant funds

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

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt Resolution No. 09-31 – A Resolution of the Albany City Council Authorizing the City Administrator to enter into a grant funding agreement with the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) in the amount of \$130,000 for the completion of the City's first Pedestrian Master Plan and the Update of the existing Bicycle Master Plan

**BACKGROUND**

The City of Albany started the process to develop its first Pedestrian Master Plan in the fall of 2007. The city created collision maps, conducted walking audits around elementary schools for the implementation of a Safe Routes to School Program (SR2S) in the City, and conducted a pedestrian questionnaire to identify barriers to pedestrian activity in the City. Fehr and Peers and Associates assisted the City pro bono by hosting a web portal where residents or survey participants could enter information about lack of pedestrian access and provide ideas for improvements. As a result of this effort and with the help of a SR2S grant, City staff was able to implement a SR2S program at each of the three elementary schools in Albany, with academic components, walking school buses, and educational events. However, coordinating volunteer parents and generating interest about this program has become a labor-intensive task and precluded City staff from advancing in the other components of the Pedestrian Master Plan.

In addition, the existing City of Albany Bicycle Master Plan completed in 2003 is over five years old. According to the plan recommendations, the City should strive at updating the plan every five years. Staff saw an opportunity to combine these two plans and to seek grant funds to complete the Albany Pedestrian Master Plan and to update the Albany Bicycle Master Plan.

## **DISCUSSION/ ANALYSIS**

In December 2008, City staff submitted a successful application to the Measure B Countywide Discretionary Fund Grant Program call for projects from ACTIA to complete the Pedestrian Plan and to update the existing Bicycle Plan. Measure B is the ¼ cent sales tax measure approved for extension by voters in 2002. Revenues from this source of funding are to be used solely for transportation projects. The Albany Bicycle Master Plan Update and the Pedestrian Master Plan scored at the top of all the candidate programs submitted for this round of funding. The City is now asked to execute a funding agreement with ACTIA for the completion of these studies.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

Development of the pedestrian and bicycle master plans will provide the groundwork for improving access for alternative modes of transportation.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The total projects cost is \$160,000 with \$130,000 being funded by ACTIA for the two plans. No financial impact is anticipated by entering into this agreement with ACTIA. The City submitted all the work previously conducted by staff for the pedestrian plan since the fall of 2007 as a match for the grant. This totals \$30,000 in staff time and printing costs.

### Attachments:

1. Resolution No. 09-31