

Agenda Report

DATE: November 5, 2001

TO: City Council

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Authorization to Submit the "Installation of Sod and Irrigation Systems on North Lake Avenue between Bell Street and Boylston Street" Project to Caltrans under the Community Based Transportation Planning Grants

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council:

1. Adopt a resolution approving the submission of the "Installation of Sod and Irrigation Systems between Bell Street and Boylston Street" Project to Caltrans under the Community Based Transportation Planning Grant Program, which supports the livable community concepts.
2. Authorize the City Manager to complete all materials associated with the application and agreement for the acceptance of the grant for the proposed project.

ADVISORY COMMISSION REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:

Staff planned to take this recommendation to the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) at their regularly scheduled meeting on November 2nd, the first Friday of the month. Due to a rescheduling of this meeting to November 15th and given the time constraint of the application deadline, staff was not able to obtain the Commission's concurrence. In the past, however, the TAC has been supportive in pursuing grant opportunities.

BACKGROUND:

On September 12, 2001, the California Department of Transportation announced funding opportunity for the Community Based Transportation Planning grants. The Community Based Planning Grants were developed to support commonly understood livable community concepts such as: long-term sustainable economic growth; mobility and transportation choices; transit-oriented or mixed-use development; pedestrian, bicycle, transit linkages; jobs and housing balance; re-use or infill/compact development; community/economic development; etc. with a transportation objective. Caltrans expects to fund a total of \$6 million over the two-year period, FY 2001 – 2003, with a cap of \$300,000 per project and a required local or in-kind match of 20 percent. The applications are due by November 16, 2001.

MEETING OF 11/5/01

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4.A.(5)

Proposed Application: Installation of Sod and Irrigation Systems in the “Tree Lanes” and “Tree Peninsulas” between Bell Street and Boylston Street (North Lake Specific Plan)

This proposed project is currently listed in the Capital Improvement Program (Section 2.18). The funding presently available is earmarked for the construction of historic style post-top street lights along Lake Avenue between Maple Street and Elizabeth Street. Although the final determination of how the money will be used will be made in corporation with businesses and residents in the area.

The initial phase of the adopted North Lake Specific Plan, constructed in 1999, provided for widening the parkways on Lake Avenue between Bell Street and Boylston Street by constructing “tree lanes” and “tree peninsulas” in order to accommodate the planting of shade trees. The trees were duly planted by City forces and the expanded areas between the new curbs and sidewalks filled with either decomposed granite or mulch that is a by-product of City tree trimming operations. Both of these treatments have proven to be less effective than anticipated and have created maintenance problems.

The present project proposes to install sod within the expanded parkway areas in place of the existing surface treatments. This will require the installation of individual irrigation systems at those frontages whose owners agree to assume responsibility for future maintenance, including water usage, once the improvement have been installed at the City’s expense. This approach was successfully employed in 2000-2001 to landscape the “tree lanes” and “tree peninsulas” between Washington Boulevard and Rio Grande Street constructed during the second phase of the project.

The proposed project meets the Grant Objectives in several ways:

- It supports commonly understood livable community concepts where streets are safe for motorists and pedestrians; and
- It addresses a deficiency and provides opportunity in coordinating land use and transportation needs in the North Lake neighborhood.

The estimated total project cost is \$190,000 with a required match of \$38,000 (20%) local or in-kind contribution. The funding will be requested under the Community Based Transportation Planning Grant and the local match will be provided from the North Lake Specific Plan project of the Capital Improvement Program (Budget Account 75954).

COST ITEM	ENGINEERING	CONSTRUCTION	TOTAL
Total Cost	\$60,000	\$130,000	\$190,000
Requested Grant	\$48,000	\$104,000	\$152,000
Local Match	\$12,000	\$26,000	\$38,000

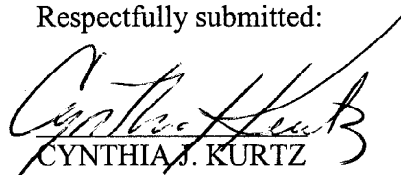
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES POLICIES:

Pursuant to the Children, Youth and Family Policy adopted by the City Council in 1989, the requested actions provide potential funding for improving safety in residential areas and for improving pedestrian access and amenities. This proposed project is consistent with the North Lake Specific Plan that "... it [offers] settings where people can gather, feeling welcome and safe and enjoying the places as their own."


FISCAL IMPACT:

This project is currently listed in the Capital Improvement Program (Section 2.18). The required local match would come from the North Lake Specific Plan of the Capital Improvement Program (Budget Account 75954).

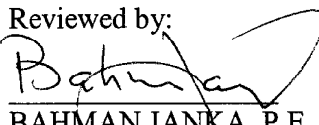
Respectfully submitted:


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

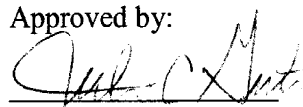
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