

# Agenda Report

March 14, 2011

**TO:** PASADENA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
**FROM:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
**SUBJECT:** ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANT FY 2011 / 2012

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Pasadena Community Development Commission adopt a Resolution approving the submission of a grant application to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to fund the Northwest Pasadena Community Planning Project in a total amount not to exceed \$250,000 to develop a strategic plan to improve the public right-of-way to increase transit, pedestrian and bicycle access.

## **ADVISORY COMMISSION/BOARD/CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

On February 22, 2011, the Fair Oaks Project Area Committee recommended that the City Council approve staff recommendation of approval.

On February 24, 2011, the Northwest Commission and Community Development Committee recommended that City Council approve the staff recommendation to adopt a resolution.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Caltrans is offering a Fiscal Year 2011 – 2012 Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive Planning grant application, which is due on March 30, 2011. As a requirement of the grant submittal, applicants must receive and submit an approved Resolution authorizing a contract between the applicants' governing board and Caltrans and identification of a 10% local funds match. The Environmental Justice planning grants are intended to promote the involvement of low-income and minority communities, and Native American Tribal Governments, in the planning for transportation projects to prevent or mitigate disproportionate, negative impacts

while improving their mobility, access, safety and opportunities for affordable housing and economic development. Announcement of grant fund awards will occur in late August 2011. If awarded the Commission would enter into a contract with Caltrans for the disbursement of grant funds.

### **NORTHWEST PASADENA COMMUNITY PLANNING PROJECT:**

The Northwest Programs Division identified a 14 square block area, bounded by Mountain Street to the north, Los Robles Avenue to the east, Orange Grove Boulevard to the south and Fair Oaks Avenue to the west that has the greatest need for neighborhood revitalization based on high crime rates. To stimulate neighborhood revitalization within this target area, the identified grant funds will develop a strategic plan to improve transit access along the corridors of Orange Grove Boulevard and Fair Oaks Avenue, see Attachment A – Project Area Map. The Project will substantially involve community stakeholders in developing a strategic plan that will focus on increasing access to transit, pedestrian and bicycle activity while promoting equity, sustainability, affordable housing and other revitalization efforts that improve local quality of life.

Overseeing the project in partnership with the Commission, the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) is an independent non-profit organization with 16 years of experience in community-outreach, planning and construction projects. As the Commission's grant sub-recipient, LANI will be responsible for conducting community outreach; contracting and overseeing a qualified, professional design team; managing the project; and preparing the plan document. In coordination with City staff, LANI will also convene a Project Steering Committee (PSC) made up of neighborhood stakeholders who will have hands-on participation in the selection of preferred improvements, development, planning and subsequent design and construction phases.

Selection of the PSC members would be a combination of identifying community partners from existing Northwest advisory committees and commissions and by contacting a broad base of individuals from the community including residents, business owners, tenants, and neighborhood organizations. Working under the direction of City staff, LANI will employ a variety of outreach strategies to establish a large and diverse participant pool including circulating and mailing bilingual fliers, posting announcements at community locations such as schools, libraries, religious organizations and other gathering places as well as attending community meetings or going door to door to talk to people on a one-on-one basis.

Additionally, to ensure the feasibility and constructability of all community-preferred improvements, a technical advisory committee made up of representatives from Caltrans and city departments and agencies that have jurisdiction over various proposed elements. All members of the project team will meet regularly over the

duration of the project to provide input and feedback. City department representatives will be involved throughout the process to ensure the feasibility of the final plan and include elements identified in the Fair Oaks / Orange Grove Specific Plan.

At the conclusion of the planning process, a conceptual strategic plan document will be produced featuring in-depth descriptions of the identified improvements including detailed drawings, cost estimates, project phasing and maintenance plans. The document will be a valuable tool in securing implementation funding and moving the project into the construction phase.

### **COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION**

Approval of the subject recommendation advances the following City Council goals and City policies:

- Support and promote the quality of life and the local economy -- City Council three-year goal (2009-2012)
- Increase conservation and sustainability -- City Council three-year goal (2009-2012)
- Maintain fiscal responsibility and stability -- City Council three-year goal (2009-2012)

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

The Caltrans Environmental Justice grants do not require environmental studies, plans or documents. Recipients of these Caltrans grant funds will only produce conceptual planning documents that will be used to secure future implementation grant funding for identified improvements along the corridors of Orange Grove Boulevard and Fair Oaks Avenue.

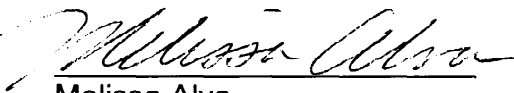
**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Approval of the subject recommendation may result in the State awarding the Commission up to \$250,000 in grant funds which with a 10% local fund match requirement. If awarded, the Commission will need to encumber the grant funds in Fiscal Year 2011 – 2012. The Commission will match 7.5% or \$18,750 in tax increment funds identified from Fiscal Year 2011 -2012 Fair Oaks and Villa-Parke Redevelopment Project Areas. LANI will match 2.5% or \$6,250 in in-kind contributions, which can include equipment, supplies, and staff time. Caltrans remits grant funds to the Commission on a reimbursement basis.

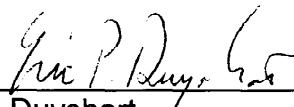
Respectfully submitted,

  
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STEVE MERMELL  
Assistant City Manager  
Office of the City Manager

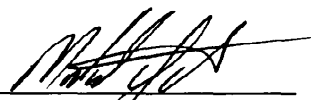
Prepared by:

  
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Economic Development Manager  
Office of the City Manager

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL J. BECK  
Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

Attachment A – Project Area Map

# Attachment A Project Area Map

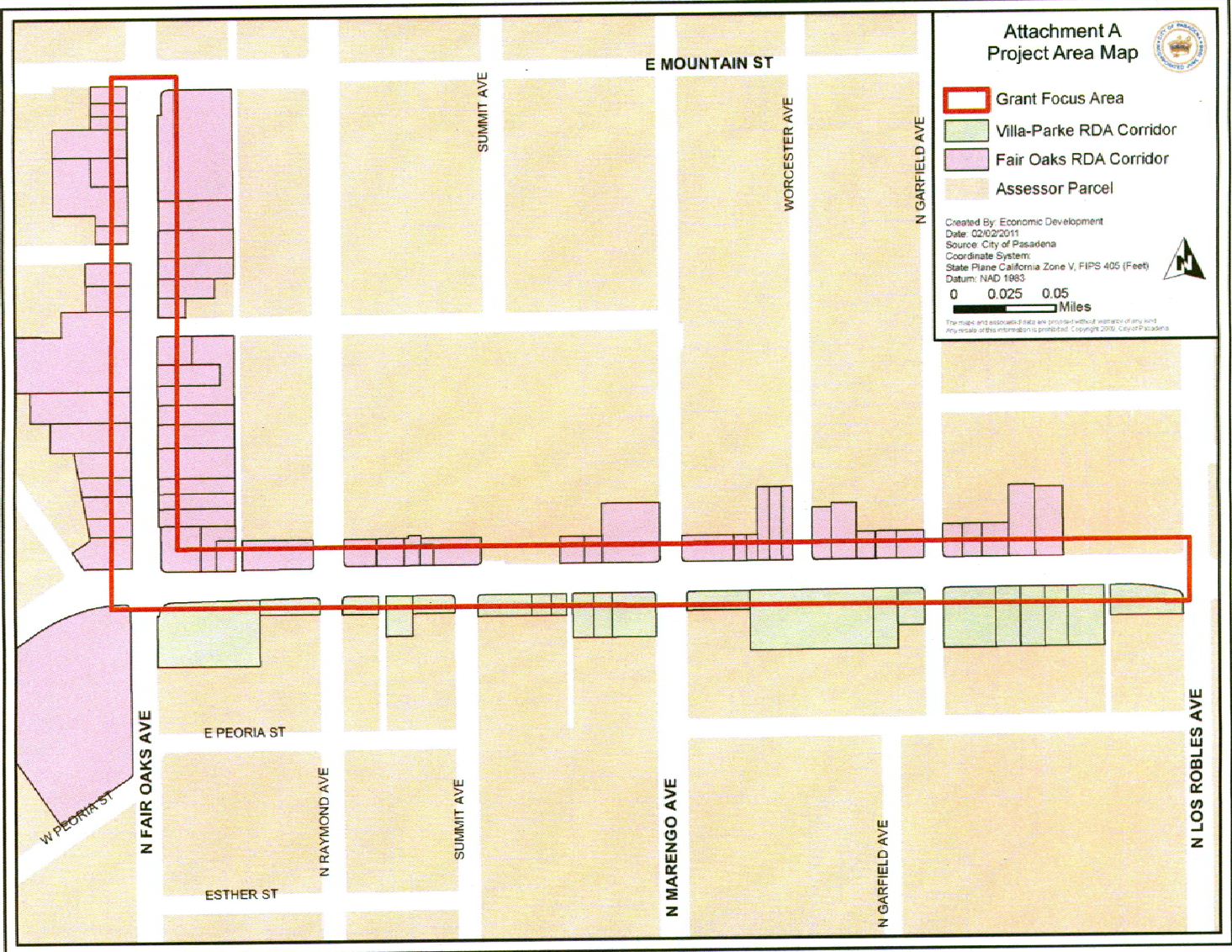


- Grant Focus Area
- Villa-Parke RDA Corridor
- Fair Oaks RDA Corridor
- Assessor Parcel

Created By: Economic Development  
Date: 02/02/2011  
Source: City of Pasadena  
Coordinate System:  
State Plane California Zone V, FIPS 405 (Feet)  
Datum: NAD 1983



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RESOLUTION OF THE PASADENA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS UNDER THE CALTRANS  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Pasadena Community Development Commission (“Commission”) is partnering with Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) to prepare an “Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive Planning” grant application for the development of the Northwest Pasadena Community Planning Project; and

WHEREAS, the proposed plan will address an area that is typically under-represented in planning and project development and identify concepts to improve pedestrian, bicycle, and transit use to promote a safer, revitalized human environment; and

WHEREAS, available statewide funding for the Environmental Justice Grant Program in FY 2011/12 is \$3 million, pending approval of the State budget, and the maximum grant award is \$250,000; and

WHEREAS, grant applications are due to Caltrans on March 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to authorize the submission of a grant application for the maximum grant award amount for this project, which will require a 10% local match; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans rules require that the Commission adopt a resolution authorizing the grant application before submittal;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pasadena Community Development Commission hereby authorizes the Executive Director to submit an Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive Planning grant to Caltrans by the March 30, 2011 deadline and enter into a contract with Caltrans if grant funds are awarded for the Northwest Pasadena Community Planning Project.

Adopted at the regular meeting of the Pasadena Community Development Commission the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

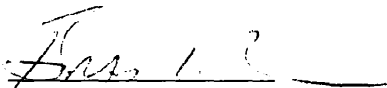
ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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Mark Jomsky, Secretary

Approved as to form:



Brad L. Fuller  
Assistant General Counsel