

# Agenda Report

January 12, 2004

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL  
**THROUGH:** LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE  
**FROM:** CITY MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council approve the attached legislative platform for 2004.

**BACKGROUND:**

In conjunction with the City's federal lobbyists, staff prepares a legislative platform each year to serve as the foundation for a focused advocacy strategy. The platform outlines the city's position on a broad range of current issues providing staff and lobbyists with direction to pursue advocacy on these issues.

The 2004 platform includes requests for funding in eight areas and outlines 13 other areas of interest. The funding requests are:

1. Pedestrian Access Enhancement to Sierra Madre Villa Gold Line Station
2. Reclaimed Water Project
3. Robinson Park Rehabilitation and Renovation
4. Increased Security Needs for Homeland Defense Activities
5. Pasadena LEARNs After School Program
6. Water Infrastructure Replacement
7. Route 210 Soundwalls
8. Intelligent Transportation System Improvements

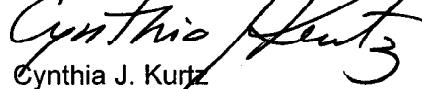
New funding requests this year include the reclaimed water project, water infrastructure replacement, and the Intelligent Transportation System Improvements. The Allendale Joint Use Project was dropped from the list and Washington Park was replaced by Robinson Park as the priority for parks funding.

In addition to the issues listed in this report, the City will need to take positions on a number of new issues raised during the year. As in past years, staff will return to Council with recommendations on new issues as they may impact Pasadena.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

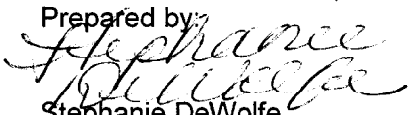
Funds for the legislative advocate are included in the City Council operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia J. Kurtz  
City Manager

Prepared by:



Stephanie DeWolfe  
Assistant to the City Manager

**CITY OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA**  
**2004 Federal Priorities**  
**January 2004**

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**Pedestrian Access Enhancements to Sierra Madre Villa Gold Line Station**

The Sierra Madre Villa Station on the Los Angeles to Pasadena Gold Line is the eastern terminus for the first phase of this light rail project and serves some of the most transit-dependent low and moderate-income neighborhoods in Pasadena and unincorporated Los Angeles County. A pedestrian bridge over the eastbound 210 Freeway to provide access to the southern end of the station is an essential access point for commuters, nearby businesses, and area residents currently separated from the Gold Line by the busy freeway. This project is an integral piece to the overall success of the Gold Line and safe access to the station is vital to the residents and businesses south of the freeway. Thanks to the efforts of the congressional delegation, the City received \$600,000 in FY 2004 DOT funds and hopes to receive the necessary funds in FY 2005 to complete the \$5 million project.

- Federal Request: \$2 million from the FY 2005 Department of Transportation Appropriations bill

**Pasadena Reclaimed Water Project**

Several years ago, Pasadena entered into an agreement with the City of Glendale to take reclaimed water from the planned expansion of the Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation plant. Pasadena committed \$5.3 million toward construction on the Glendale site, and now pipes and reservoirs on the Pasadena side are needed to complete the project. The City obtained a federal authorization for the water reuse project in legislation approved in 1996 and is now prepared to provide the matching funds (75 percent) required for this program through the Bureau of Reclamation. The City has identified recreational customers for Phase I of the project, and sees the use of reclaimed water an increasing necessity given the state's reduced water allocation from the Colorado River and other future supply concerns. Congress appropriated \$500,000 in FY 2003 for the project, but the Bureau of Reclamation ultimately allocated \$230,000 of that amount because of budget shortfalls. In FY 2004, Congress provided the Bureau with an additional \$226,000 for the project to make up for the FY 2003 shortfall.

- Federal request: \$675,000 for design and construction activities from the FY 2005 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, Water and Related Resources, Bureau of Reclamation, Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse program

**Robinson Park Rehabilitation and Renovation**

The City of Pasadena is seeking assistance with the implementation of a Master Plan that proposes significant modifications to the existing Robinson Park in Northwest Pasadena. The Plan concludes that the seven acre park, which serves over 400 residents of nearby low and moderate income neighborhoods each day, no longer meets the needs of the community in its current state. Activities at Robinson Park include basketball and

baseball leagues, weight room activities, exercise programs, martial arts programs, piano and computer classes, after school clubs, and drill teams.

The centerpiece of the Master Plan is a new recreation center and pool complex to replace undersized and inadequate existing facilities. In addition improving current programs at Robinson Park, the upgraded facilities will expand the recreational and developmental opportunities at the Park with additions such as a youth center and computer lab. In addition to the upgraded facilities, the Master Plan proposes significant improvements to existing sports fields and a picnic area in the park. The total cost of the rehabilitation and renovation of Robinson Park is approximately \$15.2 million. The city currently faces a \$1.9 shortfall in funding Phase I, a \$7.9 million project that includes an administrative building, gymnasium, parking lot, basketball courts and playground equipment.

- Federal Request: \$1.9 million from the FY 2005 Department of Housing and Urban Development appropriations (Economic Development Initiative), or Department of Interior appropriations (National Park Service)

#### **Increased Security Needs for Homeland Defense Activities**

Since September 11, the City of Pasadena has been aggressively developing plans for mitigating and responding to terrorist threats. While City public safety agencies have been working in cooperation with neighboring communities and jurisdictions on regional plans, Pasadena has also determined the areas in which its most immediate security needs lie. Thus far, federal Homeland Security department block grant funds have been spread thin across the Los Angeles metropolitan area, and as a result, the City is unable to secure sufficient funds for more expensive priorities. One of our top priorities at this time is assistance with renovations and seismic upgrades to an existing public works facility that will be converted into an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which would be used to coordinate mitigation and response efforts.

- Federal Request: \$1.2 million for seismic upgrades and renovations to the proposed Emergency Operations Center from FY 2005 appropriations for the Department of Justice, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and/or the new Department of Homeland Security

#### **Pasadena LEARNs After School Program**

The City of Pasadena works in cooperation with Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) on after school enrichment programs that serve approximately 1,400 elementary and middle school students at seven schools in the area. Known as Pasadena LEARNs (Leading Educational Achievement – Revitalizing Neighborhoods), this program is an integral piece of the City's efforts to provide safe educational opportunities to at-risk children during non-school hours. Children are offered a safe, supervised setting for three hours after school five days a week where they received a nutritious snack, receive help with homework, and participate in their choice among such activities as arts and crafts, drama, and youth sports. Participants in the program have shown increases in both test scores and school attendance and it has become an effective tool for offering

alternative activities for at-risk children in the community. The City and the PUSD are committed to seeking a stable, long term funding source to maintain this program. However, in the immediate future, the program faces a shortfall as the result of an expired federal grant.

- Federal Request: \$1.34 million from the FY 2005 Labor, HHS, and Education Departments appropriations bill in the "Funds for the Improvement of Education" category; FY 2005 Institute of Library and Museum Services appropriations, or FY 2005 Department of Justice appropriations in the Byrne Grant category or Safe Schools category

### **Water Infrastructure Replacement**

The Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) Department provides water to virtually all residents within the City of Pasadena, and as a result, the integrity of the water delivery system is essential to providing the high level of service our customers enjoy. The vast majority of the PWP facilities were installed over 70 years ago, with many water valves over 90 years old. Given that the useful life of a cast-iron pipeline is 50 to 70 years old, these facilities are clearly beyond their design life and are in need of replacement. The City estimates a capital cost of replacement at about \$11.3 million annually for the next 18 years.

- Federal Request: \$3.85 million from FY 2005 Environmental Protection Agency appropriations, State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) category

### **Route 210 Soundwalls**

The City has been working with the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in coordinating the construction of soundwalls along two sections of the Route 210. The 4.1 mile North Arroyo Boulevard segment is bordered by residential neighborhoods built long before the construction of the freeway that are now being severely impacted by increasing freeway traffic and noise. Despite noise measurements confirming it is the segment in Pasadena with the highest decibel level, MTA has not funded the Orange Grove to Arroyo Boulevard segment and has no estimated construction date. The City hopes to receive federal assistance to accelerate construction of the soundwalls in this high priority area. The estimated cost of the project is \$15 million.

- Federal Request: \$12 million from the High Priority Project section of the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21)

### **Intelligent Transportation System Improvements**

The City of Pasadena is eager to deploy a number of emerging technologies that will assist in mitigating increased traffic congestion on local roads, as well as improving access to the City's public transportation system. They include 1.) upgrades to the City's Traffic Management Center in order to keep current with technological advances, improve reliability, and support future expansion; 2.) the development of a Transit Management System that would include an automatic vehicle location system, priority

signalization, and real-time passenger information systems for buses on our Pasadena Area Rapid Transit System (ARTS), and 3.) a parking guidance system to alleviate congestion in downtown Pasadena by monitoring the number of available spaces in garages and surface lots.

- Federal Request: \$9 million from the High Priority Project section of the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21)

**CITY OF PASADENA**  
**Other Federal Items of Interest**  
**January 2004**

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➤ ***Extension of the Gold Line East of Pasadena***

The City of Pasadena strongly supports Phase II of the Los Angeles to Pasadena Gold Line and urges Congress to provide sufficient funds through the annual appropriations process and TEA-21 reauthorization to ensure that the project is completed in a timely matter. In addition to serving Pasadena residents wanting a transit alternative east of the City, Phase II of the Gold Line will alleviate the anticipated traffic buildup in East Pasadena that is expected from commuters approaching the current terminus of the line from all directions.

➤ ***Electronic Commerce***

The City strongly opposes legislation (S 150, HR 49) in its current form that would permanently extend the moratorium on state and local taxation of Internet access fees. In an attempt to broaden the moratorium to include broadband access to the Internet, bill sponsors have included vague language that would jeopardize current state and local utility taxes and franchise fees on all telecommunications services. The cost to Pasadena could be as much as \$11 million annually. In addition, the City hopes that Congress will consider legislation that would allow states and local governments to collect sales taxes from remote sales such as online and catalog purchases.

➤ ***TEA-21 Reauthorization***

The City of Pasadena hopes to be an active participant during discussions of the proposed reauthorization of the Transportation Equity for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (TEA-21). Like many communities in California and across the country, Pasadena is currently struggling with ways to provide safe and efficient transportation options to our citizens. The City hopes that TEA-21 will provide California with increased funding while maintaining the strong emphasis on local planning, allowing communities to direct transportation funds in a flexible manner to projects most in need. The City has requested funds through the TEA-21 reauthorization process specifically for soundwall construction and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) upgrades and improvements, both high priority transportation projects for the community (see previous list for specific project requests).

➤ ***Homeland Security***

The presence of the Rose Bowl and NASA Jet Propulsion Lab presents the City of Pasadena with unique challenges in protecting its citizens from terrorist threats. Like many other communities, the City believes that there is a role for the federal government to assist localities, preferably with flexible homeland security funding (block grants) that can be tailored to the specific needs of each community. The City has identified needs in areas such as response equipment, personal protective gear, pre-incident site preparation, training, and security that total approximately \$4 million. In addition, the City is working on issues regarding improved communications among public safety agencies on a regional basis and urges the federal government to provide such agencies with sufficiently protected bandwidth necessary to carry out such upgrades (see previous list for specific project requests).

➤ ***Community Development/Affordable Housing***

The City strongly supports HUD programs such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Supportive Housing and Shelter Plus Care homeless assistance, and Section 8 voucher and project-based assistance and urges the congressional delegation to oppose any attempts to reduce funding for these popular programs or convert them into state block grants. Pasadena receives in excess of \$15 million combined annually from the programs, which fund a variety of community projects and services that are vital to our low-income residents. In addition, federal funds for homeless assistance programs and investment in affordable housing that recognizes fair market rents in high-cost areas such as California are also important to the City's goals of serving our residents most in need. The City also opposes efforts to reduce available funding or place restrictions on the use of administrative fees to implement the Section 8 assisted housing program on the local level.

➤ ***Public Power***

The City opposes any effort by Congress or the Federal Electricity Regulatory Commission (FERC) to institute a Standard Market Design establishing FERC as the regulating entity over a national power grid. The City further opposes any mandate that imposes participation in Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs). The decision to participate in an RTO should be a local decision based on what is in the best interest of each agency's customers. In addition, while the City is exploring ways to expand its use of renewable sources of energy, it would oppose any attempt by Congress to mandate specific levels in that area. Other areas of concern with regard to the pending energy bill include the provision providing uniform refund authority to FERC; requirements of participant funded transmission upgrades, and the lack of adequate consumer protections if the Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA) is repealed.

➤ ***Workforce Investment Act***

The City of Pasadena, through Foothill Workforce Investment Board, provides a variety of job training services to youths and adults in need and therefore supports increased funding levels for vital Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs, which are currently scheduled for reauthorization in Congress. The City strongly opposes recent reauthorization proposals that would reduce WIA funding, narrow the scope of WIA youth programs to serve only out-of-school youth, create state block grants for job training programs, and other proposals to dilute local control of workforce boards.

➤ ***Public Health***

The City encourages the federal government to continue to provide the necessary resources to strengthen the existing public health infrastructure and help address the growing number of uninsured individuals without access to care. The City also strongly supports efforts by the Community Health Alliance of Pasadena (CHAP) to be designated as a federally-qualified health center, which would provide enormous benefits to the underserved in the Pasadena area. In addition, terrorist threats, particularly in the area of bioterrorism, have increased the burdens on local health departments to be prepared for such events and the city encourages the federal government to provide the resources to develop effective and coordinated community mitigation and response systems. Finally, the City Health Department is interested in any funds to assist with reduction of health disparities,



expanding substance abuse recovery programs, and responding to emerging infectious diseases.

➤ ***Perchlorate Contamination***

The City continues to work with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on an equitable solution to the remediation of perchlorate contamination in the City drinking water wells, which is believed to have originated from rocket fuel engineered at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. In addition to the significant costs of remediation (up to \$7 million per well), the City is also spending between \$500,000 and \$2 million annually to replace the water lost from the contaminated wells the City has closed.

➤ ***Parks and Recreation***

The City is committed to providing safe and accessible recreational opportunities to its citizens and as a result, strongly supports efforts to provide a guaranteed funding source for federal conservation, recreation, and preservation programs. The City urges Congress to increase funding for important programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program. While significant local resources are dedicated to parks, the City hopes to secure some federal assistance for upgrades to heavily used parks such as Robinson Park,

➤ ***Library Services***

The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), which is the only federal program exclusively for libraries, was reauthorized in 2003 and the City strongly supports full funding for the LSTA, as its flexibility and foundations in local control have proven a valuable tool in Pasadena's efforts to provide access to information for citizens of all income levels. The City is also seeking assistance with popular early childhood literacy programs conducted in conjunction with the Pasadena Unified School District. In addition, the City encourages to continued funding of library recruitment grants through the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services at or exceeding current levels.

➤ ***Local Law Enforcement Block Grant***

The City considers the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) to be critical to its crime reduction efforts. These flexible grants allow the City to fill gaps in popular programs and initiatives that might not be fully funded in the Police Department budget in a given year. The City strongly opposes efforts to combine the LLEBG and other federal law enforcement programs into a state block grant because we fear the loss of flexibility in the program and the greater potential for overall loss of funding.

➤ ***Firefighter Assistance Grants***

The City supports the continued funding of the Firefighter Assistance Grants program at by the U.S. Fire Administration, which serves as a valuable tool for both homeland security and local fire safety purposes. In addition, the City urges Congress to fully fund the recently approved SAFER program to provide firefighter hiring grants.