



# Agenda Report

April 20, 2020

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Department of Transportation

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE RECEIPT OF MEASURE R MOBILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE CITY OF PASADENA AND AMENDMENTS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 – 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b )(3) (General Rule);
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute agreements associated with the receipt of Measure R Mobility Improvement Projects (MIPs) Funds from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). These funds total \$11,350,000 for four (4) projects within the City of Pasadena;
3. Amend the FY 2020 – 2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget as detailed in the body of this report; and
4. Acknowledge that these new projects may not commence unless and until found to be consistent with the General Plan by the Planning Commission.

## **BACKGROUND:**

On May 25, 2017, the Metro Board voted to adopt the Transportation System Management/Transportation Demand Management (TSM/TDM) Alternative as the Locally Preferred Alternative for the SR 710 North Project, allocate \$105 million in remaining Measure R funds to the development and implementation of the projects listed in the TSM/TDM Alternative, and allocate the remaining Measure R and other funding dedicated to the SR 710 North Mobility Improvement Projects (previously referred to as Early Action Projects) to alleviate traffic congestion on local arterials in the SR-710 N corridor.

The City of Pasadena retained the services of Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, in September of 2017, to assist the City in coordinating with neighboring Cities to ensure that projects submitted to Metro for Measure R funds are coordinated with neighboring cities. Pasadena contacted the City of Alhambra and the City of South Pasadena to develop a comprehensive approach towards maximizing the benefits of the available funding. Nelson/Nygaard provided a report outlining the City's mobility priorities and the list of projects for the Pasadena's consideration. Nelson/Nygaard presented the projects to the Pasadena Transportation Advisory Commission on the October 26, 2017 meeting to obtain feedback prior to submitting for City Council approval. On January 29, 2018, Pasadena City Council approved the following projects for funding consideration:

- Gold Line Grade Separation at California Boulevard;
- Modifications to the I-210 stub freeway access ramps to remove access to/from California Boulevard and make operational improvements to the access ramps at Del Mar Boulevard;
- Implement traffic calming/Complete Streets Programs for St. John Avenue/Pasadena Avenue/South Orange Grove Boulevard, Allen Avenue, Hill Street and Avenue 64;
- Implement Intelligent Transportation Systems projects that include performance monitoring and analytics for intersections near to the Gold Line crossings, automated data collection for pedestrians and bicycles, high resolution traffic signal data collection/broadcasting, Walnut Street corridor signal upgrades and expansion of the I-210 Connected Corridor project;
- Transit improvements that include rapid bus enhancements in the Fair Oaks/Atlantic and Rosemead corridors, Rose Bowl shuttles and college/university transit passes;
- Bicycle improvements, including unfunded projects identified in the adopted Bicycle Transportation Action Plan, the Arroyo Link and Bike Share expansion; and

On November 14, 2018, the Metro Board approved the first round of Mobility Improvement Projects for funding. The Gold Line Grade Separation at California Boulevard was awarded \$105,000,000 and was the only project funded in the City of Pasadena.

On September 26, 2019, the Metro Board approved funding for Mobility Improvement Projects Round 2. The five projects listed below were approved for funding by Metro:

- A. St. John Capacity Enhancement Project - \$2,600,000
- B. Fair Oaks Avenue/ Bellevue Drive Signalized Intersection Project - \$850,000
- C. ITS Projects and Traffic Flow Improvements - \$3,800,000
- D. Walnut Street Corridor Signal Improvement Project - \$4,100,000
- E. Gold Line Grade Separation at California Boulevard - \$230,500,000 (Round 1 and 2 funding allocation)

The five projects approved by the Metro Board for funding meet the criteria of alleviating traffic congestion while also enhancing the multimodal network through targeted

improvements aimed at increasing pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, enhancing pedestrian and bicyclist safety, and providing accessibility for all users.

#### FUNDING AGREEMENTS

A funding agreement for each of the four (4) projects listed below will be prepared by Metro and submitted to the City for consideration and approval.

- A. St. John Capacity Enhancement Project – FY 2021
- B. Fair Oaks Avenue/ Bellevue Drive Signalized Intersection Project – FY 2020
- C. ITS Projects and Traffic Flow Improvements – FY 2022
- D. Walnut Street Corridor Signal Improvement Project – FY 2021

City staff is engaged in on-going discussions with Metro regarding next steps and roles and responsibilities related to the Gold Line Grade Separation at California Boulevard project. Staff will return with a separate City Council action item once agreement terms have been defined.

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2020 - 2024 CIP

The Department of Transportation is recommending amending the FY 2020 – 2024 CIP budget as detailed below:

1. **St. John Capacity Enhancement (New)** - Staff recommends adding this new project to the FY 2020 CIP budget and appropriating \$2,600,000 in Measure R Mobility Improvement Program Grant funds to this project.

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$2,600,000

Project Description: This project provides for modifications to the intersections of the I-210 eastbound off ramp at California Boulevard, and westbound California Boulevard at the Pasadena Avenue northbound I-210 on ramp to provide dual southbound left turn movements and dual right turn movements which require roadway striping and reconfiguring lanes. Other work will include: resurface a portion of California Boulevard to accommodate roadway striping changes; reconstruct and widen the sidewalk on the north side of California Boulevard to meet current standards, and modify traffic signals and associated hardware at the intersection of Pasadena Avenue/California Boulevard, and the southbound I-210 off ramp at Californian Boulevard. This project will optimize traffic operations and improve mobility.

See Attachment A for CIP project sheet.

2. **Traffic Signal at Fair Oaks Avenue and Bellevue Drive (75098)** – Staff recommends appropriating \$850,000 in Measure R Mobility Improvement Program Grant funds to this existing CIP project.

See Attachment B for CIP project sheet.

- 3. Intelligent Transportation System Projects & Traffic Flow Improvements within the SR 710 Affected Corridors (New)** – Staff recommends adding this new project to the FY 2020 CIP budget. There is no funding request at this time. Measure R Mobility Improvement Program Grant funds are expected to be received in FY 2022.

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$3,800,000

Description: This project provides for upgrades to traffic signal controllers and cabinets; install fiber optics communication, dedicated short range communication, and signal preemption technology at up to 55 signalized intersections along segments of Orange Grove and Colorado Boulevards, Green and Holly Streets and Hill Avenue. This project will improve traffic operations and complement the corridors in the City of Pasadena that are being updated with adaptive traffic/traffic responsive control system signal technology.

See Attachment C for CIP project sheet.

- 4. Walnut Street Corridor Signal Improvements (New)** – Staff recommends adding this new project to the FY 2020 CIP budget and appropriating \$4,100,000 in Measure R Mobility Improvement Program Grant funds to this project.

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$4,100,000

Description: This project provides for the replacement of old traffic signal controller infrastructure and communication equipment along Walnut Street to reduce delay, manage speeds, and collect data. Installation of up to 15 new signal cabinets, traffic signal controllers, video detection equipment, two CCTV cameras, and 3 miles of fiber optic communication, associated hardware and software and requisite ADA compliant curb ramps. Walnut Street is used to bypass heavy traffic on the 210 freeway and on Colorado Boulevard. This project will improve traffic operations and mobility throughout the corridor.

See Attachment D for CIP project sheet.

- 5. Metro Gold Line Grade Separation of California Boulevards (New)** – Staff recommends adding this new project to the FY 2020 CIP budget. There is no funding request at this time. Staff will return to City Council when funding agreement terms are worked out with Metro.

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$230,500,000 (Unfunded Memo)

Description: This project provides for a grade separation of the segment of the Gold Line that intersects California Boulevard, an east-west arterial street with high traffic volumes, results in substantial delay and congestion. This at-grade crossing also contributes to a lack of pedestrian and bicycle connectivity between neighborhoods east and west of the Gold Line. The Gold Line Grade Separation Project at California Boulevard has a nexus to the I-710 North project since this at-grade crossing is in proximity to the I-710 “Gap” and grade-separating California

Boulevard at the Gold Line will greatly improve traffic flow not only in the east-west direction but also in the north-south direction.

See Attachment E for CIP project sheet.

Due to the current Covid-19 emergency situation, these new projects have not been presented to the Planning Commission as is normally the process. By law the Planning Commission must review all new recommended CIP projects for General Plan consistency. Given this, as a one-time provision, the City Council may adopt the new recommended projects and appropriations prior to receiving the Planning Commission's ruling. However, the projects will not become active until they have been presented to the Planning Commission and the Commission has deemed them consistent with the General Plan. At the time of this report, the date of the next Planning Commission has not yet been determined.

Project	Funding	FY 2020	FY 2022	Total Funding
St. John Capacity Enhancement	PS&E, Construction	\$ 2,600,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,600,000.00
Fair Oaks Ave/Bellevue Ave Signalized Intersection	PS&E, Construction	\$ 850,000.00	\$ -	\$ 850,000.00
ITS Projects and Traffic Flow Improvements	PS&E, Construction	\$ -	\$ 3,800,000.00	\$ 3,800,000.00
Walnut St Corridor Signal Improvement	PS&E, Construction	\$ 4,100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,100,000.00
Total Funding Amount		\$ 7,550,000.00	\$ 3,800,000.00	\$ 11,350,000.00

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

The proposed action is consistent with the goals of the General Plan Mobility Element and also the goals of the Strategic Plan including “Improve, Maintain and Enhance Public Facilities and Infrastructure, Improve Mobility and Accessibility throughout the City, and Support and Promote the Quality of Life and Local Economy.” The projects selected for Measure R funding will support the Department of Transportation in implementing the following objectives of the Mobility Element.

- Enhance Livability
- Encourage walking, biking, and other alternatives to motor vehicles.

Specifically, this project addresses three policies of the Mobility Element:

- Policy 1.6 Continue to invest in innovative information technology and applications to help improve access to all transportation choices

Policy 1.30 Pursue funding opportunities such as grants, impact fees, or fair share contributions from development to implement programs and projects that contribute to the City's Mobility Element objectives.

Policy 2.16 City of Pasadena will work with Caltrans to evaluate access management needs and strategies to better manage traffic operations on arterial streets located within close proximity of freeway on/off-ramps in an effort to reduce traffic backups and frictions at Caltrans ramp signals.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

The City's Environmental Administrator has determined that this action is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") Guidelines in Section 15061 (b) (3), the General Rule. The receipt of Measure R MIP funding does not result in a significant effect on the environment. As the planning process for each project starts, an environmental analysis will be conducted for each project individually.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Approval of the Funding Agreements will enable the City to obtain \$11,350,000 in Measure R funds through Metro. The recommended appropriations will result in a \$7,550,000 increase to the FY 2020 CIP budget.

Respectfully submitted,



LAURA CORNEJO

Director

Department of Transportation

Prepared by:



Alberto Felix  
Engineer

Approved by:



Steve Mermell  
City Manager

Attachments: (5)

Attachment A – St. John Capacity Enhancement (New) CIP Project Sheet

Attachment B – Traffic Signal at Fair Oaks Avenue and Bellevue Drive (75098) CIP Project Sheet

Attachment C – Intelligent Transportation System Projects & Traffic Flow Improvements within the SR 710 Affected Corridors (New) CIP Project Sheet

Attachment D – Walnut Street Corridor Signal Improvements (New) CIP Project Sheet

Attachment E – Metro Gold Line Grade Separation of California Boulevards (New) CIP Project Sheet