

Agenda Report

July 27, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
THROUGH: Finance Committee (July 23, 2020)
FROM: Department of Transportation
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR ON-STREET DINING AND PARKLETS PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the actions proposed are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301, 15304, and 15311, there are no features that distinguish this project from others in the exempt classes, and therefore there are no unusual circumstances; and
2. Appropriate \$275,000 from the Off-Street Parking Fund (\$100,000), Old Pasadena Parking Meter Fund (\$100,000) and General Fund (\$75,000) unappropriated fund balances for the On-Street Dining Program to the Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget as detailed in the report.

BACKGROUND:

COVID-19 continues to have profound impacts not only on public health, but also on our local economy. The measures taken to protect public health have resulted in businesses having to significantly scale back their services or cease operating completely. The recent rollback of reopening measures directly affects sit down indoor dining at local restaurants and dining establishments. This prolonged economic impact has prompted the City to develop several local business support programs and accelerate action specifically for an on-street dining and parklet program.

On-street dining allows restaurants to expand seating by temporarily transforming curbside parking or street space into an area for outdoor dining.

Parklets are also being considered whereby businesses can repurpose adjacent curbside parking spaces by installing platforms that serve as an extension of existing

sidewalk. This extends the sidewalk area to provide additional space for outdoor dining, professional services, or retail services.

At the May 21, 2020 Economic Development and Technology Committee (EdTech) meeting, staff was encouraged to develop opportunities for restaurants and other establishments to occupy sidewalks, alleys, streets, and parking lots to help support local businesses. An update was provided at the June 9, 2020 EdTech Committee meeting with more details on the potential for full or partial street closures to accommodate on-street dining.

Since that time, staff has worked closely with restaurants and Business Improvement Districts to develop partial street closure plans that address their needs including retention of curb-side pick-up, restriping of the street to provide diagonal parking, and securing barricades. The street closure plans also considered safety, how to maintain ADA access, and limit the impact to transit.

Staff returned to the Edtech Committee on July 9, 2020 to provide an initial list of specific street segments planned for partial closure and additional street segments to be completed in July.

Implementation of the on-street dining program is estimated to cost \$200,000. For each street segment with a partial closure there are costs associated with re-striping travel lanes, re-striping for diagonal parking, rental and installation of barricades, and rental of ADA compliant ramps. The amount requested is expected to provide budget to close nine street segments in the Playhouse Village and Old Pasadena districts.

In addition to on-street dining, a parklet program is also proposed to assist businesses with opportunities to relocate or expand their business outdoors. Staff is requesting authorization to appropriate \$75,000 for the parklets program. To implement a parklet, businesses are required to design and construct the parklet at their own cost. While a prototype design will be made available, businesses can choose to modify the design or develop their own design to suit their business needs. These funds will be available to help offset costs for businesses associated with the design and installation of a parklet. The Department of Transportation will work with the City Manager's office in developing criteria for use of these funds.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed action is consistent with the City Council's strategic planning goal to maintain fiscal responsibility and stability and to promote quality of life and the local economy.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The actions proposed herein are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301, 15304, and 15311. Section 15301 exempts from review minor alterations to existing public facilities, Section 15304 exempts from review minor alterations to land such as minor temporary uses of

land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment, and Section 15311 exempts from review placement of minor structures accessory to existing commercial facilities. The actions proposed herein would fall under each of these exemptions, as the actions proposed herein are minor alterations to roadways, are temporary, and are accessory to commercial uses. The roadways will be returned to their normal use once the need for outdoor dining due to the pandemic has passed. There are no features that distinguish this project from others in the exempt classes, and therefore there are no unusual circumstances that would cause these actions to fall outside of the exemptions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of the proposed on-street dining and parklets programs is \$275,000. Funding will be addressed with additional appropriations to the Department of Transportation's FY 2021 Operating Budget as follows:

- \$100,000 increase in appropriations to account 40724022-811400 from the unappropriated fund balance of Fund 407 (Off-Street Parking Fund); and
- \$100,000 increase in appropriations to account 21324013-811400 from the unappropriated fund balance of Fund 213 (Old Pasadena Parking Meter Fund); and
- \$75,000 increase in appropriations to account 10124003-811400 from the unappropriated General Fund operating reserve. In the event a parklet is installed in a parking meter zone, the respective parking meter fund will reimburse the General Fund for expenses up to \$75,000.

Respectfully submitted,

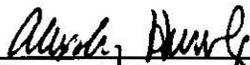


LAURA CORNEJO

Director

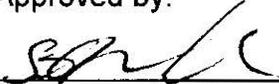
Department of Transportation

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Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
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