

Agenda Report

May 24, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Department of Transportation
SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that this action is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3), the General Rule that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment; and
2. Adopt a resolution authorizing the City of Pasadena to apply for and submit to the Department of Housing and Community Development the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program Application, Round 6, jointly with Heritage Housing Partners in a total amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 of which up to \$5,000,000 is requested for Affordable Housing Development (AHD) and/or Housing Related Infrastructure (HRI) and up to \$5,000,000 is requested for a grant for Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure (STI), Transit-Related Amenities (TRA) or Program (PGM) activities as defined in the AHSC Program Guidelines issued by the Strategic Growth Council on February 24, 2021, for the project at 1870-1890 East Walnut Street, 175 N Greenwood Ave; and
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute, on behalf of the City, the AHSC Program Application Package, the AHSC Program Documents, any other funding and cooperative agreements, and any amendments thereto, as required for participation in the AHSC Program.

BACKGROUND:

The State of California, the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) and the Department of Housing and Community Development (Department) has issued a Notice of Funding Availability dated February 26, 2021 (NOFA), under the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program established under Division 44, Part 1 of the Public Resources Code commencing with Section 75200. This program aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by funding affordable housing developments in conjunction with sustainable transportation infrastructure. To apply for the AHSC

program grant funding, a resolution is required that authorizes the City to submit an application, identifies the program funding amount and designates the City Manager as the authorized person to enter into any agreements, should funding be awarded to the City.

Heritage Housing Partners approached the Department of Transportation to identify projects within the public right-of-way that would reduce greenhouse gas emission and promote the pedestrian, bicycle and transit modes of travel for a site located at 1870 – 1890 East Walnut Street, 175 N. Greenwood Avenue that includes 25 units of affordable housing. The project site is currently made up of multiple connecting parcels, the new project address is proposed to be 1880 East Walnut Street. On April 21, 2021 this project received a Conditional Use Permit to allow the development of a multifamily use within one quarter mile of the Allen Street station in a transit-oriented development (TOD) area.

The AHSC grant application will include multimodal projects in the City of Pasadena, such as the design and construction of a component of the Allen Avenue Pedestrian Enhancements to Access the Metro L Line Station, which includes sidewalk widening, lighting and street trees, the design and implementation of the Craig Avenue Greenway (Bike Boulevard) as a quick build project, and the construction of a new traffic signal at the intersection of Orange Grove Blvd and Craig Avenue to create a controlled pedestrian crossing. These projects are all currently identified in the City's Capital Improvement Program.

The development of this AHSC Program grant application with Heritage Housing Partners included collaboration with multiple City departments. The Transportation Department has coordinated the project scope and cost estimates with the Department of Public Works and has included the Housing Department and the Planning Department in communications regarding this effort. The City Attorney's Office also played a key role in the development of the resolution language.

AHSC Program grant award recipients will be notified in October 2021. If the City is awarded grant funds, design of the proposed projects within the public right of way would begin in 2022, with construction anticipated to begin in 2024.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

Submitting an application for AHSC Program Round 6 grant funding is consistent with the following objectives of the Mobility Element:

- Policy 1.1 - Encourage connectivity and accessibility to a mix of land uses that meet residents' daily needs within walking distance.
- Policy 1.2 - Promote greater linkages between land uses and transit, as well as non-vehicular modes of transportation to reduce vehicular trip related emissions.
- Policy 1.7 - Design streets to achieve safe interaction for all modes of travel particularly for pedestrians and bicycle users.
- Policy 1.9 - Support local and regional air quality, sustainability, and GHG emission reduction goals through management of the City's transportation network.

- Policy 1.17 - Design streets to improve access to destinations by transit, bicycle, and walking.
- 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.


ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The City's Environmental Administrator has determined this contract is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") Guidelines in Section 15061 (b) (3), the General Rule. The proposed action is to adopt a resolution allowing the City to apply for Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities Program grant funding. The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA only applies to programs that have a potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

City staffing costs to coordinate the development and submittal of this application with Heritage Housing Partners are minimal and will be absorbed within the operating budgets of the departments involved in the project. If the Round 6 AHSC Program grant application is selected for funding of up to \$5,000,000, costs associated with the design, construction and administration of the program funding associated with implementing Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure (STI), Transit-Related Amenities (TRA) improvements will be included as part of the grant award. There is no local match requirement for this grant.

Respectfully submitted,



LAURA RUBIO-CORNEJO
Director
Department of Transportation

Prepared by:



Joaquin J. Siques
Deputy Director

Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager

Attachment: (1)

Attachment A - Resolution