

DATE ISSUED: May 4, 2005 REPORT NO. CCDC-05-20

ATTENTION: Honorable Chair and Members of the Redevelopment Agency
Docket of May 10, 2005

SUBJECT: Park Boulevard at Harbor Drive Pedestrian Bridge Project -
Authorization to apply for federal Transportation Enhancements (TE)
funding from SANDAG - East Village Redevelopment District of the
Expansion Sub Area of the Centre City Redevelopment Project

REFERENCE: None

STAFF CONTACT: William R. Yee, Associate Project Manager

SUMMARY

Issue - Should the Redevelopment Agency approve a resolution authorizing staff to apply for federal Transportation Enhancements (TE) funding from SANDAG when a call for projects is announced?

Staff Recommendation - That the Redevelopment Agency approve a resolution authorizing staff to apply for federal Transportation Enhancements (TE) funding from SANDAG when a call for projects is announced.

Centre City Development Corporation Recommendation - On April 20, 2005, the Corporation Board of Directors voted unanimously by a vote of 4-0 to recommend the Redevelopment Agency approve staff's recommendation.

Centre City Advisory Committee Recommendation - On April 13, 2005, the Centre City Advisory Committee, by a vote of 23-0, recommended approval of staff's recommendation.

Other Recommendations - None.

Fiscal Impact - None.

BACKGROUND

This project will advance the Visions and Goals of the Centre City Community Plan and the Objectives of the Centre City Redevelopment Project by:

- creating public spaces and wide promenades providing easy pedestrian access to the waterfront and spectacular city-wide views;
- providing safe, efficient and environmentally sensitive transportation systems;
- maximizing Centre City's unique topography and waterfront setting;

- encouraging the expansion of the business district and establishing linkages to the Bay and the Embarcadero;
- strengthening the economic base of downtown with public improvements to support and stimulate new development; and
- minimizing the conflict between pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

Phase 2 (Final Design) of the project has begun, with expected completion in early Fall 2005. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2005/early 2006. Currently, a budget shortfall exists for construction costs. In response to this shortfall, staff has worked diligently to identify funding sources that exist for this type of project from federal, state, and local programs that could help fill the existing shortfall. Recently, with the help of Congresswoman Susan Davis of San Diego, a \$1M earmark of federal transportation monies was confirmed. These monies still require full approval by the U.S. Senate before final confirmation that this project will receive the identified monies.

In addition, staff recently learned of a SANDAG Pilot Smart Growth Incentive Program (SGIP) which would utilize TE funds as its funding source. The purpose of this pilot program is to encourage local land use development that will support SANDAG's Regional Transit Vision of MOBILITY 2030, the current Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the smart growth urban form principles that are a central component of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP).

The SGIP was developed to fund public capital improvement projects of high quality that can be implemented in a relatively short time frame. The program is intended to fund projects that will show how smart growth development can benefit communities throughout the region.

Following is a sampling of the criteria to be used to select projects:

- Can the project be implemented in the near term?
- Is it in an area that exemplifies existing or emerging smart growth development?
- Will the project be well designed and a good example of the smart growth design principles?

This project fits the criteria to be used for selection. The amount of funds available in this SGIP will be determined by the next federal transportation bill currently being debated in Congress. The State of California, which administers TE funds on behalf of the federal government, has estimated that \$17M will be made available to the San Diego region.

Staff anticipates that a call for projects will be made by SANDAG shortly, perhaps as early as May, but more likely during the summer. As part of the selection criteria to be used by SANDAG for worthy projects, a resolution by the local public agency supporting the project and authorizing request for funding must be made.

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SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

The pursuit of federal transportation monies to help fill a budget gap for construction of this project is of critical importance to the City and to the continued implementation of the Visions and Goals of the Centre City Community Plan and the Objectives of the Centre City Redevelopment Project. The Agency's authorization to apply for such funding is an important step in the process.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurred by:

WILLIAM R. YEE
Associate Project Manager

PETER J. HALL
President

Attachment - Resolution