



COUNCIL AGENDA: 6/18/24
FILE: 24-147345
ITEM: 2.41


Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: John Ristow

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: May 28, 2024

Approved 

Date
6/5/24

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 5, 8

**SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES
BOARD'S FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 STATE GRANT FUNDS FOR THE
EAST SAN JOSE MOBILITY EQUITY PROJECT**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopt a Resolution of Local Support to receive state grant funds from California Air Resources Board's Clean Mobility in Schools and Sustainable Transportation Equity Project that indicates the City will:

- (a) Follow all grant program requirements;
- (b) Authorize the City Manager or her designee to negotiate and execute grant agreements and all documents necessary to effectuate the grant agreements administered by the California Air Resources Board, in an amount not to exceed \$5,220,663 for reimbursement for the East San José Mobility Equity Project.

SUMMARY AND OUTCOME

Acceptance of the funds provides \$5,220,663 in state grant funding to support implementation of the East San José Mobility Equity Project. Adoption of the above resolution is required by the California Air Resources Board as part of the grant award process. This grant opportunity provides funding to the East San José Mobility Equity Project to implement a universal basic mobility pilot that will provide fare subsidies for public transit, two Viva CalleSJ (open streets) events in East San José, and several school-focused and community bike programs, including an Earn-a-Bike program for 600 high school students, bike mechanic apprenticeship, bike repair clinics, and bike safety and repair classes. This grant-funded project supports key City priorities related to improving transportation mode shift, reducing the cost of transportation, and reducing vehicle miles traveled and related greenhouse gas emissions.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Transportation actively pursues grant funds for projects that support the goals of the City and the Department of Transportation. In 2018, City Council adopted the Climate Smart San José Plan. The plan sets ambitious goals to address climate change through community-wide initiatives to reduce air pollution, save water, and improve quality of life. On April 5, 2022, City Council adopted the Emerging Mobility Action Plan, an equity-centered action plan to help the City better meet the transportation needs of residents, particularly in underserved communities.

On November 3, 2023, the Department of Transportation submitted the East San José Mobility Equity Planning Project for funding consideration under California Air Resources Board's Clean Mobility in Schools (CMIS) and Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP) programs that support City goals and objectives outlined in the Climate Smart San José and Emerging Mobility Action Plan. On April 9, 2024, California Air Resources Board announced the City had been recommended to receive CMIS/STEP grant funds in the amount of \$5,220,663 for the East San José Mobility Equity Project.

ANALYSIS

CMIS and STEP were created to support California Air Resources Board's mission to promote and protect public health, welfare, and ecological resources through effective reduction of air pollutants while recognizing and considering effects on the economy.

CMIS/STEP funds a variety of clean transportation and supporting projects, such as public transit and shared mobility services, active transportation infrastructure, land use planning and housing policy, workforce development, and clean transportation planning and education. Funded projects work together within low-income and disadvantaged communities to increase transportation equity. Funded projects are designed and implemented with community residents to address community needs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and vehicle miles traveled while increasing access to key destinations and services.

Upon City Council approval and final determination by California Air Resources Board, the City will be eligible to receive CMIS/STEP grant funding to support the implementation and outreach of the East San José Mobility Equity Project.

East San José Mobility Equity Project

The City of San José will co-lead the East San José Mobility Equity Project with SOMOS Mayfair and the East San José community. Providing access to safe and affordable transportation options, such as active transportation and public transportation, to low-income and communities of color in East San José can reduce the transportation burden on these equity-priority neighborhoods and promote active, healthy lifestyles while reducing vehicle-related greenhouse gas emissions.

The East San José Mobility Equity Project consists of a universal basic mobility pilot that will provide fare subsidies to very low income East San José residents for public transit, two Viva CalleSJ (open streets) events in East San José, the development of a transportation-focused Promotoras program, and several school-focused and community bike programs that consists of a bike mechanic apprenticeship, bike repair clinics, bike safety and repair classes and an Earn-a-Bike program for 600 high school students that enables students who do not own a bike to get one by learning basic bike maintenance and repair skills and volunteering time to help other students with their bikes at bike clinics organized by this project. The Promotora model is a grassroots approach to community engagement and capacity building that engages members of a targeted community in strengthening their leadership skills as they connect people from their communities to needed information, services, and resources. Promotoras are liaisons (links) between their communities and the City, and because Promotoras share the same language, culture, and experiences of their communities, they are best positioned to conduct community engagement and outreach in their communities from a personal and relatable perspective as they are trusted leaders in their communities, and have a great understanding of their community needs. The community engagement plan, co-led by the City and community-based organizations, uses a trauma-informed lens and prioritizes the most vulnerable community members, including people with disabilities, people who are unhoused, the LGBTQ+ community, parents with small children, seniors, and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Climate Smart San José Analysis

The recommendation in this memorandum aligns with one or more Climate Smart San José energy, water, or mobility goals. The East San José Mobility Equity Project will improve bicycling and transit options in particular, which reduces vehicle miles traveled and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

This memorandum will not require further follow-up.

COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS

The Project cost of \$5.2 million will be funded by the CMIS/STEP grant funds and the City will provide a \$62,047 resource contribution. Project expenditures and revenue have already been programmed in the Traffic Capital Program in the 2024-2025 Proposed Capital Budget and the 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Program. Notably, the Department of Transportation has programmed \$1.5 million in 2024-2025.

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COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, City Manager's Budget Office, and the Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement Department.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

This memorandum will be posted on the City's Council Agenda website for the June 18, 2024 City Council meeting. Staff will coordinate public outreach meetings to the affected neighborhoods and businesses during the design process of the project.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION AND INPUT

This item does not require input from a board or commission.

CEQA

Not a Project, File No. PP17-003, Agreements/Contracts (New or Amended) resulting in no physical changes to the environment.

PUBLIC SUBSIDY REPORTING

This item does not include a public subsidy as defined in section 53083 or 53083.1 of the California Government Code or the City's Open Government Resolution.

/s/

JOHN RISTOW

Director of Transportation

For questions, please contact Devin Gianchandani, Senior Transportation Specialist, at devin.gianchandani@sanjoseca.gov.