



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 6, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: *PK* Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Claudette Ford, Acting Director, Public Works

Subject: Grant Extension: 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign a Cooperative Work Agreement with Caltrans, extending the City's \$500,000 Bicycle Transportation Account grant for construction of the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension until 2011.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of the resolution will result in avoiding the loss of \$500,000 in grant funding awarded to the City for construction of the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension. The grant funds are recorded in revenue budget code 615-4950-331-2203, project code 01TP11 (9th Street Bicycle Boulevard).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard currently terminates at Heinz Street, offering cyclists no good passage south of Ashby Avenue into Emeryville. The only alternate routes are indirect and follow roads heavy with vehicle traffic. The 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension will address this situation, but the project has been delayed, potentially jeopardizing funding secured in 2003 for construction, and requiring the City to apply for an extension to the 2006 construction deadline.

BACKGROUND

The 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension is a proposed bikeway connecting Berkeley's 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard to the Doyle Street Greenway in Emeryville. The proposed project alignments will close the existing gap in bikeways between the intersection of Heinz and 9th Streets in West Berkeley and the Emeryville City limit, following abandoned railroad right-of-way and existing City roadways. Upon completion, the project will provide a safe, direct bicycle crossing of Ashby Avenue offering cyclists an unbroken, regional route through Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, and into Oakland.

Council first approved the concept of the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension with adoption of the City's Bicycle Plan in April of 2000. Also in 2000, the City of Berkeley was awarded \$398,250 from the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program and \$51,750

in State Transportation Improvement Program funds for this project. In 2001, \$135,000 in Transportation Development Act Article 3 funding was allocated to the project. In 2003, the City was awarded a \$500,000 construction grant from Caltrans' Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) for the project (for which we are seeking the extension). In 2005, the project was awarded \$1,034,000 in Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Program funding.

Environmental clearance for the project is complete, and Public Works Transportation has an appraiser and a law firm under contract to acquire the necessary Union Pacific properties. Public Works Engineering is completing the necessary survey work while Union Pacific completes its own appraisal.

Although in recent months much progress has been made, the cost and complexity of the project combined with staff turnover have contributed to delays in implementation. As a result, the City must now apply for an extension for the BTA construction monies awarded in 2003 and set to expire in 2006. Caltrans will allow one-time extensions to BTA grants for a total of eight years from the original award date. Council must approve an extension request in the form of a Cooperative Work Agreement with Caltrans in order to apply for the grant extension through June 30th, 2011.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

A Council-approved Cooperative Work Agreement is required to avoid losing \$500,000 in grant funds for construction of the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City could forfeit \$500,000 in grant money.

CONTACT PERSON

Heath Maddox, Transportation Planner, Public Works, 981-7062

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

GRANT EXTENSION: 9TH STREET BICYCLE BOULEVARD EXTENSION

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is committed to completion of the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension, as called for in the 2000 Bicycle Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City accepted a \$500,000 Bicycle Transportation Account grant from the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in 2003 for construction of the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension; and

WHEREAS, the project will not be completed by the funding deadline of June 30, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans will allow a one-time extension to the grant until June 30, 2011 under a Cooperative Work Agreement approved by Council; and

WHEREAS, the grant funds were deposited to revenue budget code 615-0950-331-2033, project code 01TP11 (9th Street Bicycle Boulevard) in prior years.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley authorizes the City Manager to execute a Cooperative Work Agreement and any amendments with Caltrans to extend until 2011 the City's \$500,000 Bicycle Transportation Account grant for construction of the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension.