



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 12, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: *PK* Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Claudette Ford, Director, Public Works

Subject: Grant Application: West Street Path Extension

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to Caltrans' FY 07-08 Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) for a grant in the amount of \$787,500 to complete the West Street Multi-use Path; and authorize the City Manager or designee to execute related grant agreements and any amendments, and accept these grant funds, if awarded.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

If Berkeley's FY 07-08 BTA grant application is successful, the City will receive \$787,500 to complete construction of the West Street Multi-use Path, estimated to cost a total of \$875,000. Caltrans requires a 10% local match for such grants. Therefore, the City would be responsible for providing \$87,500 in one-time matching funds.

The \$87,500 in local match will be funded from the City's Measure B Bicycle and Pedestrian funds, budget code 392-4950-431-6580-07BP01.

This grant is not currently included in the City's budget, and would require an amendment to the annual appropriations ordinance if awarded.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Construction of a three-block segment of shared use path on the Santa Fe Right-of-Way (formerly West Street) north of University Avenue was completed in Fall 2006. Cyclists and pedestrians have begun using the new facility, but it ends abruptly in the north at Delaware and in the south at University Avenue, forcing users to negotiate City streets lacking bicycle facilities or abandoned, unimproved railroad right-of-way. At the north end of the newly built path, three blocks remain to be funded and constructed in order to connect to the Ohlone Greenway between Lincoln and Cedar Streets. To the south, the City has negotiated an easement with the Berkeley Montessori School to connect the path from University Avenue to Addison Street and Strawberry Creek Park. Finalization of the easement is pending completion of survey and legal description work. The Public Works Department is seeking funding to finish construction of the path spur in both directions, which will ultimately connect the central University Avenue area

and its shops, schools, parks and offices to the Ohlone Greenway and the regional bicycle network.

BACKGROUND

Caltrans administers the statewide Bicycle Transportation Account, which provides grant monies to local government with up-to-date Bicycle Transportation Plans. Berkeley's Bike Plan was updated in 2005, keeping the City eligible for this competitive grant program until 2009. The Berkeley Bicycle Plan includes this project as a proposed Large Capital Project.

The City has successfully applied for BTA funds in the past, including \$500,000 for construction of the 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard Extension awarded in 2003. For FY 07/08, the BTA will provide \$5 million statewide to city and county agencies for projects that improve safety and convenience for bicycle commuters. The maximum an applicant may request is \$1,250,000, or 25% of the total funds available.

On April 23, 2002 Council approved Resolution No. 61,535–N.S. designating a project to create a pedestrian and bicycle path on the Santa Fe Right-of-Way between Strawberry Creek Park and Delaware Street. This project was funded primarily through a \$1,000,000 Housing Improvement Program Grant and a \$115,000 local match which came from Parks Capital Funds, the General Fund, and Transportation Development Act Article 3 funds. This project was completed in fall of this year, except for the segment between University Avenue and Addison Street.

If funded, the West Street Path Extension will accomplish two goals: 1) complete the earlier four-block project by building a connector on the easement through the Montessori School grounds, and 2) connect the southerly segment (Addison to Delaware) to the Ohlone Greenway by building three blocks of multi-use path north from Delaware.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The existing path lacks connections at its northern and southern termini. Adding these connections will give the path and its users access to the Ohlone Greenway in the north and to parks and offices to the south of University Avenue. Staff has determined that the project is eligible for BTA funds because it will serve bicycle commuters.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Other funding sources were considered, but BTA funding is seen as the best opportunity to fund this project given the obligated nature of existing monies and the restrictions on other competitive bicycle and pedestrian grant programs.

CONTACT PERSON

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

Matt Nichols, Principal Transportation Planner, 981-7068

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

GRANT APPLICATION: WEST STREET PATH EXTENSION

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Bicycle Plan was updated in 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Bicycle Plan includes a bicycle and pedestrian path on the Santa Fe Right-of-Way; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has already completed construction a three-block segment of pathway on the Santa Fe Right-of-Way, also know as West Street; and

WHEREAS, the City currently lacks funding for to extend the path to the north and south; and

WHEREAS, the Bicycle Transportation Account, administered by Caltrans, provides grants for bicycle facility construction to local jurisdictions with an up-to-date Bicycle Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City will receive \$787,500 to complete construction of the West Street Multi-use Path, estimated to cost a total of \$875,000; and Caltrans requires a 10% local match of \$87,500 in one-time matching funds; and

WHEREAS, the \$87,500 in local match will be funded from the City's Measure B Bicycle and Pedestrian funds, budget code 392-4950-431-6580-07BP01.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley does hereby adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to Caltrans' FY 07-08 Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) for a grant in the amount of \$787,500 to complete the West Street Multiuse Path; and authorizing the City Manager or designee to execute related grant agreements and any amendments, and accept these grant funds, if awarded.