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CITY of OAKLAND

Agenda Report

TO: Office of the City Manager/Agency Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Community and Economic Development Agency
DATE: February 24, 2004
SUBJECT: CITY AND AGENCY RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANT FOR \$170,000 FROM CALTRANS, APPROPRIATING AND ACCEPTING \$18,900 IN MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, APPROPRIATING SUCH FUNDS TO PAY FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY FOR FRUITVALE AVENUE, AND APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION FUNDS OF \$15,000 TO EXTEND THE PLAN TO THE DIMOND DISTRICT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This item is a request for the City Council and Redevelopment Agency approval of two resolutions regarding the acceptance and appropriation of a grant and the required matching funds from the California Department of Transportation, Division of Transportation Planning ("Caltrans") Environmental Justice Program. Caltrans has awarded the City \$170,000 to fund a comprehensive transportation plan for Fruitvale Avenue between I-580 and the Dimond district. Adoption of these resolutions will assist the City and Agency to improve pedestrian safety and transportation deficiencies in the Fruitvale and Dimond districts. The Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization Unit will contribute an additional \$15,000 that will be used to extend this plan to the Dimond District segment of MacArthur Boulevard between Sheffield and Lincoln Avenues.

FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

This Caltrans Environmental Justice grant provides valuable funding to pursue community-based planning studies to address serious traffic circulation deficiencies in the Fruitvale and Dimond districts. The program requires a matching grant of at least ten percent (10%) above the amount of the grant award. The City will receive a grant of \$170,000 which will be assigned to Fund 2140, State of California Caltrans Grants. The required match of \$18,900 will be covered by funds from the Redevelopment Agency's Coliseum Redevelopment Project Area funds (Fund 9450, Org. 88659, Project S82600, and Account 53719) as the plan will result in benefits for this redevelopment area.

The Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization Unit is contributing an additional \$15,000 from its HUD CBDG funds (Fund 2108, Project G04600 Organization 88569, and Account 53719) to extend

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the plan to the Dimond district.

BACKGROUND

The Caltrans Environmental Justice Grant Program was created to promote environmental justice and context-sensitive planning for communities in California. The grants are awarded on a competitive basis to projects with a clear focus on transportation and community planning issues that address the interests of low-income, minority and other under-represented communities. Projects awarded under these grants must begin in Fiscal Year 2003/2004 and be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 2004/2005. This grant was prepared by the Office of Pedestrian Safety, under the title "Fruitvale Alive!" and will be administered by the CEDA Redevelopment Division, Central City East Unit.

Project Description

The Environmental Justice funds will be used to fund a comprehensive transportation plan for Fruitvale Avenue from MacArthur Boulevard to the Oakland Estuary. The plan will address all transportation modalities including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit and private vehicles and will integrate their respective needs. The Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization Unit will contribute an additional \$15,000 that will be used to extend this study to the Dimond District segment of MacArthur Boulevard between Sheffield and Lincoln Avenues.

The plan's goals are to improve pedestrian safety, improve the linkage between the Fruitvale and Dimond districts and to improve the traffic flow along the Fruitvale corridor. It will address traffic overflow issues to Coolidge Avenue and other nearby streets when necessary. The community has already identified several intersections and areas of concerns regarding pedestrian safety which will be specifically studied and addressed during the preparation of the plan.

The transportation plan will include an existing conditions report which will include a thorough survey of existing and planned projects, studies and policies as well as standard traffic data and the collection of new data. This existing conditions report will provide the basis for the final products which will be a 20 year master circulation plan containing forecasts of future conditions as well as a conceptual design plan for traffic circulation, signing and way-finding, pedestrian and bicycle safety and connections and transit connections.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

The Fruitvale area is the most densely populated residential area in the City and possesses a high concentration of families and children. In the past decade, the Fruitvale neighborhood has evolved to become a regional center and has developed an identity as a growing and vibrant multi-ethnic community with diverse shops, restaurants and events that attract new residents and visitors. A surge of population growth in the 1990s has increased pedestrian-oriented shopping, and public transit usage. At the same time, the area's main traffic artery, Fruitvale Avenue, has experienced

rapid growth of vehicle traffic and congestion traveling between the I880 and I580 freeways. This increase in all modes of traffic has resulted in the highest concentration of pedestrian/vehicle collisions in the City outside of downtown. The intersection of Fruitvale Avenue and Foothill Boulevard experienced 11 pedestrian/vehicle collisions in five years which was the highest incidence of such collisions at the time of the grant application.

The Dimond Improvement Association (“DIA”) has been working for several years on a vision plan for the Dimond Commercial District which lies along Fruitvale Avenue above I-580. One of the Plan’s goals is “clean, safe and attractive streets... and a pedestrian oriented downtown”. This project represents a partnership between the Fruitvale and Dimond community organizations as the Unity Council and the DIA are co-applicants for the grant and will play major roles in the community outreach. Several other organizations, including local schools and libraries, the La Clinica de la Raza, the Fruitvale Health Project Inc., and the Native American Health Center participated in the planning process for the grant and remain committed to identifying areas of concern for the plan. This transportation plan will provide the necessary background information and community process that will help both communities apply for streetscape improvement funding from various sources such as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission Transportation for Livable Communities, the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority’s Measure B Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Fund and the Central City East Redevelopment Project.

One of the Environmental Justice Program’s goals is to encourage community –based planning for communities that are affected by state highways. The study process will include community outreach, including public workshops to solicit input at key benchmarks in the study’s development. The City will enter into a contract with the Unity Council for community outreach functions.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic

The implementation of the transportation plan will encourage economic development in the Fruitvale and Dimond districts by gathering and analyzing key data needed for further infrastructure planning and streetscape improvements for these areas. Improvements in traffic flow along Fruitvale Avenue will help the area’s desirability as a destination and as a neighborhood.

Environmental

The transportation plan will increase pedestrian and bicyclist safety along the affected corridors and will encourage the use of these transportation modes which will help reduce vehicular traffic.

Social Equity: The Caltrans Environmental Justice Program was created to address the interests of low income, minority and other under-represented communities affected by state freeways such as

the Fruitvale and Dimond districts. This project will develop solutions to identified traffic circulation deficiencies in these communities.

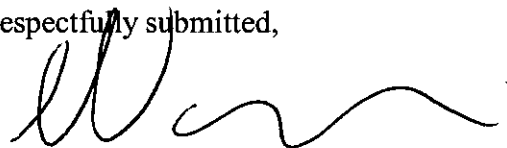
DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

The transportation plan will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and with all City regulations that ensure adequate access for senior citizens and people with disabilities.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council and Agency authorize acceptance of the grant from the Caltrans Environmental Justice program and appropriate the grant funds and the required matching funds to pay for a comprehensive transportation plan for Fruitvale Avenue corridor.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel Vanderpriem, Director of Redevelopment,
Economic Development, and Housing

Prepared by:
Wendy Simon, Urban Economic Analyst III
Redevelopment Division

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO
THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE


OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
OFFICE OF THE AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

[Signature]
2004 FEB 11 AGENCY COUNSEL

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$18,900 OF COLISEUM FUNDS AS MATCHING FUNDS FOR A CALTRANS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANT TO THE CITY OF OAKLAND TO FUND A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY FOR FRUITVALE AVENUE

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland (the "City") is receiving an Environmental Justice Grant in the amount of \$170,000 from the California Department of Transportation Division of Transportation Planning ("Caltrans") for the purpose of implementing a comprehensive traffic and safety pedestrian plan for Fruitvale Avenue in the Central City East and Coliseum Redevelopment Project Areas and part of the Dimond district to be developed over a two year period; and

WHEREAS, the Caltrans grant requires a match of ten percent of the total grant amount; and

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Agency has identified funds from the Coliseum Redevelopment Project (Fund 9450, Organization 88659, Project S82600, Account 53719) to serve as the local match for this City grant; and

WHEREAS, Section 33131 of the California Health and Safety Code authorizes a redevelopment agency to prepare plans for the improvement of blighted areas, and Section 33220(e) authorizes a local public agency to enter into an agreement with a redevelopment agency to further redevelopment purposes; and

WHEREAS, there is presently an existing repayment agreement between the City and the Agency for the Coliseum Redevelopment Project; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Agency hereby appropriates \$18,900 in Coliseum redevelopment funds (Fund 9450, Organization 88659, Project S82600, Account 53719) to serve as the required local match for the Caltrans grant; and, be it

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FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Agency Administrator is hereby authorized to negotiate and enter into an appropriate amendment to the repayment agreement with the City of Oakland, terms of which shall provide for the Agency contribution to the City to match the Caltrans grant; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Agency hereby authorizes the Agency Administrator or his designee to appropriate revenue and make expenditures and take all other actions necessary in accordance with this Resolution; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That all documents shall be reviewed and approved by Agency Counsel prior to execution and copies will be placed on file with the Agency Secretary.

IN AGENCY, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 2004

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

**AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, QUAN, REID, WAN, AND
CHAIRPERSON DE LA FUENTE**

NOES-

ABSENT-

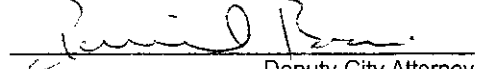
ABSTENTION-

ATTEST: _____

**CEDA FLOYD
Secretary of the Redevelopment Agency
of the City of Oakland**

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APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:


Deputy City Attorney

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANT FOR \$170,000 FROM CALTRANS AND \$18,900 IN MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, APPROPRIATING SUCH FUNDS TO PAY FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY FOR FRUITVALE AVENUE, AND APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION FUNDS OF \$15,000 TO EXTEND THE PLAN TO THE DIMOND DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland desires to accept and appropriate an Environmental Justice Grant in the amount of \$170,000 from the California Department of Transportation, Division of Transportation Planning ("Caltrans") for the purpose of developing a comprehensive traffic and safety pedestrian plan for Fruitvale Avenue and part of the Dimond District; and

WHEREAS, the grant funds will be used in conjunction with the Unity Council and a broad coalition of other community based organizations based in the Fruitvale and Dimond districts to develop a comprehensive plan for pedestrian and traffic safety; and

WHEREAS, co-applicants the Unity Council and the Dimond Improvement Association will work with City staff to support an extensive process of public outreach and community participation; and

WHEREAS, the Dimond Improvement Association has been planning a vision statement for the Dimond District that calls for safe, clean and attractive streets; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization Unit

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will contribute \$ 15,000 from Fund 2108, Project GO4600 Organization 88569, Account 53719 to extend the transportation study to the Dimond district; and

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Agency has authorized a contribution of \$18,900 in Coliseum redevelopment funds as local matching funds for the Caltrans grant; and

WHEREAS, there is presently an existing repayment agreement between the City and the Redevelopment Agency for the Coliseum Redevelopment Project; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans, Redevelopment Agency, and Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization Unit funding will help assist the Fruitvale and Dimond communities in developing a comprehensive plan for pedestrian and traffic safety, thus enabling these communities to seek future implementation monies for projects defined by the comprehensive plan; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City Manager is authorized to accept \$170,000 in Caltrans Environmental Justice Grant funds; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council appropriates the \$170,000 in grant funds to Fund: 2140 State of California Caltrans Grants under a Project Number to be established to develop a comprehensive traffic and safety pedestrian plan for Fruitvale Avenue; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council appropriates \$15,000 in Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization Unit funds (Fund 2108, Project GO4600 Organization 88569, Account 53719) for the portion of the plan that will include the Dimond district to Fund: 2140 State of California Caltrans Grants under a Project Number to be established; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Manager is authorized to accept \$18,900 from the Redevelopment Agency as matching funds for the Caltrans grant; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager or her designee to negotiate grant terms, appropriate revenue, make expenditures, and take all other actions necessary in accordance with this Resolution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Manager is hereby authorized to negotiate and enter into an appropriate amendment to the repayment agreement with the Redevelopment Agency, terms of which shall provide for the Agency contribution to the City to match the Caltrans grant; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That all documents shall be reviewed and approved by the City Attorney's Office prior to execution, and all copies will be placed on file with the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 2004

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, QUAN, REID, WAN, AND
PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST:

CEDA FLOYD

City Clerk and Clerk of the
Council of the City of Oakland,
California

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