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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

**REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND**

2010 MAR -4 PM 5:23

**AGENDA REPORT**

TO: Office of the Agency Administrator  
ATTN: Dan Lindheim  
FROM: Community and Economic Development Agency  
DATE: March 9, 2010

**RE: Agency Resolution Authorizing (1) The Agency Administrator to Apply For, Accept, and Appropriate a Grant from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Community-Based Transportation Planning Grant Program in an Amount up to \$250,000 for a Broadway Streetcar and Transit Improvement Plan; (2) A Local Match for the Grant from Central District Redevelopment Funds in the Amount of \$25,000.**

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#### **SUMMARY**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has invited applicants to submit grant applications for planning studies that will guide the initiation and eventual completion of transportation improvement projects. Adoption of the attached resolution will authorize the Agency Administrator to apply for, accept and appropriate \$250,000 in Caltrans Community-Based Transportation Planning (CBTP) grant funds for the Broadway Streetcar and Transit Improvement Plan.

This plan will assess the feasibility and community need for rail service along the Broadway corridor to link the waterfront to the Upper Broadway Auto Row area. Streetscape improvements to enhance the pedestrian experience and general aesthetic of Broadway will be incorporated into the plan to complement the proposed streetcar service. The study will also emphasize public engagement and promote a better public understanding of the transportation decision-making process.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The CBTP grant program requires a local matching contribution of at least ten percent. The required match of \$25,000 will be covered by the Agency's 1986 Bonds Fund (9504); Economic Development Capital Improvement Organization (94800); Downtown Capital Project Support Project (P130620). If the CBTP grant is awarded, the funds would be appropriated to California Department of Transportation Grant Fund (2140); Business Development Organization (88559); Business Creation, Attraction, Retention and Expansion Services Program (SC11); Project to be determined.

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## BACKGROUND

Caltrans CBTP grants provide necessary funds for cities to pursue key community transportation planning studies that will ultimately spur the revitalization of commercial neighborhoods by facilitating enhanced transit options. Following the completion of the Broadway Streetcar and Transit Improvement Plan, the City will be in a more competitive position to pursue regional and federal capital grants to implement the streetcar.

Over the past two years during prior Caltrans grant cycles, the state has awarded Oakland the following three CBTP grants:

- International Boulevard Transit Oriented Development Plan (\$245,000)
- Harrison Street/Oakland Avenue Community Transportation Plan (\$187,000)
- Mills MacArthur Community Based Transportation Plan

## KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

Transit service that connects Jack London Square with the neighborhoods north of Interstate 880 along the Broadway corridor would link up several important Oakland commercial districts. While various AC Transit lines serve Broadway, no single line travels from Jack London Square to Grand Avenue and northward. A Broadway streetcar that connects the waterfront to the MacArthur BART station would help support the new development at Jack London Square, further energize the Uptown restaurant and entertainment scenes, and spur future development on vacant and underutilized lots in the Upper Broadway district.

While bus or shuttle service represent cheaper alternatives to a streetcar, several factors make fixed-rail an appealing option for the Broadway spine. One benefit of streetcar service is that the permanence of the tracks and infrastructure signal a commitment to development, which can stimulate private investment and activate the Upper Broadway corridor. The popularity of streetcars and their potential to enliven the streetscape also help to raise the profile of cities and brand the retail and commercial districts along their routes. Typically, new rail lines have higher ridership than other forms of public surface transit because rail cars are more prominent and generally provide a smoother ride than buses. Streetcars are especially more attractive to infrequent visitors and thus can serve to attract visitors to the project area.

The Upper Broadway/Valdez Specific Plan proposes to redevelop the project area to provide high-density retail, residential, and office uses. A fixed rail service that carries passengers to and from the Ferry, Amtrak, the Downtown and MacArthur BART stations, the 20<sup>th</sup> Street AC Transit Hub, and parking garages can be a critical element of the Specific Plan's transit strategy.

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## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Broadway Streetcar and Transit Improvement Plan will be a planning effort that assesses the advantages and disadvantages, and the feasibility of a streetcar line on Broadway. The study will produce a conceptual-level plan for a streetcar and other transit and pedestrian upgrades along Broadway that will improve livability and spur economic development. The plan will include schematics that show how the project would affect the “look and feel” of the Broadway corridor.

Transportation and urban design consultants will analyze several aspects of the proposed streetcar service – including dedicated versus shared lanes, median platform stops versus sidewalk stops, proposed locations for the maintenance and storage yard(s), and different route alignments. Consultants will also help to facilitate stakeholder collaboration and consensus building through community meetings.

## **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

**Economic:** Enhanced transit mobility on Broadway will support local businesses, property owners and office tenants by making it more convenient for shoppers, residents and workers to reach downtown businesses and offices.

**Environmental:** A Broadway streetcar will reduce automobile trips by creating improved transit connectivity for downtown workers and residents. Replacing automobile trips with transit trips reduces pollution and helps to reverse climate change. In addition, electric streetcars produce fewer greenhouse emissions than diesel buses.

**Social Equity:** This plan will study social equity issues, such as proposed fares, to ensure that Oakland workers and residents of diverse socioeconomic statuses can use the streetcar to circulate throughout Oakland’s downtown and uptown neighborhoods.

## **DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS**

This plan will study disability and senior citizen access issues, including streetcar loading and offloading.

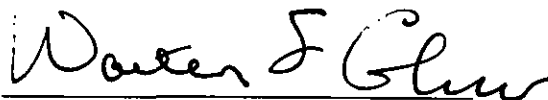
**RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE**

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the Agency Administrator to apply for, accept and appropriate the requested \$250,000 in Caltrans grant funds, and approve the \$25,000 local match so that staff can complete the Broadway Streetcar and Transit Improvement Plan.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff requests that the City Council approve the Agency resolution to fund the Broadway Streetcar and Transit Improvement Plan.

Respectfully submitted,



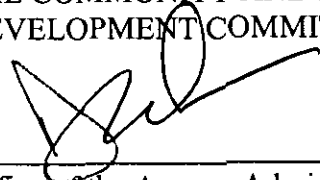
Walter S. Cohen, Director  
Community and Economic Development Agency

Reviewed by:   
Gregory Hunter, Deputy Director  
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Economic Development

Prepared by:  
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APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO  
THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

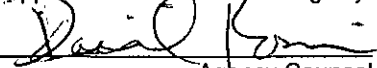
  
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Approved as to Form and Legality:

  
Agency Counsel

## REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

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**AGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING (1) THE AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE A GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CALTRANS), COMMUNITY-BASED TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$250,000 FOR A BROADWAY STREETCAR AND TRANSIT IMPROVEMENT PLAN; AND (2) A LOCAL MATCH FOR THE GRANT FROM CENTRAL DISTRICT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000**

**WHEREAS**, the Redevelopment Agency desires to improve transit connectivity along Broadway from the waterfront to the Upper Broadway district in the Central District and Broadway/MacArthur/San Pablo redevelopment project areas to promote economic development and redevelopment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency wishes to reduce automobile emissions and improve the environment by replacing Broadway automobile trips with transit trips; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency desires to support local businesses, property owners and office tenants by improving downtown and uptown mobility so that residents, shoppers and workers can more conveniently reach businesses and offices; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency wishes to submit an application to the California Department of Transportation ("Caltrans"), Community-Based Transportation Planning ("CBTP") grant program for up to \$250,000 in funding for a Broadway Streetcar and Transit Improvement Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Caltrans requires a matching contribution of at least ten percent above the amount of the grant request in order to qualify for the CBTP grant; and

**WHEREAS**, Caltrans requires a resolution authorizing the Agency Administrator to enter into a contract with Caltrans to administer the CBTP grant; and

**WHEREAS**, the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 ("CEQA"), the CEQA Guidelines as prescribed by the Secretary of Resources, and the provisions of the Environmental Review Regulations by the City of Oakland have been

satisfied, because this action is exempt from CEQA review under Article 19, Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) and Article 18, Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies); now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Agency hereby authorizes the Agency Administrator to execute and file an application with Caltrans for a grant from the CBTP program in an amount up to \$250,000, to accept such funding if awarded, and to appropriate such funding for requisite planning activities for the Broadway Streetcar and Transit Improvement Plan (the "Project"); and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Agency Administrator is authorized to negotiate and enter into a contract with Caltrans to administer the Caltrans CBTP grant; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Agency hereby authorizes a contribution from the Central District Redevelopment Project to the Project in the amount of \$25,000 in Fiscal Year 2010/2011 to be used as matching funds for the CBTP grant; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That funding for the matching funds will be paid from the Agency's 1986 Bonds Fund (9504); Economic Development Capital Improvement Organization (94800); Downtown Capital Project Support Project (P130620); and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That a copy of this resolution will be transmitted to Caltrans in conjunction with the filing of the CBTP grant application.

IN AGENCY, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, \_\_\_\_\_

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

AYES - BROOKS, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, AND  
CHAIRPERSON BRUNNER

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
LATONDA SIMMONS  
Secretary, Redevelopment Agency of  
the City of Oakland, California