

**CITY OF OAKLAND
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY OF OAKLAND

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Public Works Committee
DATE: January 10, 2006

2006 JAN 23 PM 4:37

RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE STATE HAZARD ELIMINATION AND SAFETY (HES) PROGRAM FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF THREE HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$360,000.00) FOR THE TUNNEL ROAD BICYCLE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

SUMMARY

A resolution has been prepared authorizing the City Administrator or her designee to accept and appropriate State-managed federal funds from the Hazard Elimination Safety (HES) Program in the amount of \$360,000.00 for the Tunnel Road Bicycle Safety Improvement Project to redesign and reconstruct a 300-foot section of Tunnel Road. The roadway modification will improve surface damage and thereby improve safety for cyclists and other road users. The project is located in Council District 1.

FISCAL IMPACTS

Approval of this resolution will accept \$360,000.00 from the State HES Program. These funds will be appropriated to the California Department of Transportation Fund (2140), Streets and Structures Organization (92242), and a project number will be established. Funding in the amount of \$40,000.00 for the required local match is available in Measure B – Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) Fund (2211), Matching Funds For Federally Funded Project 2003 - 05 (C184020), and Streets and Structures Organization (92242).

A 3% contract compliance fee will be levied on any contracts awarded to design and construct these projects. The City's 1.5% public art fee is not an eligible expense under the HES program. For this reason, the resolution requests that this fee be waived for this project. Maintenance of the proposed project will be covered by the City's ongoing maintenance budget.

BACKGROUND

Tunnel Road is a popular cycling route shown on the Oakland, Alameda County, and Regional Bicycle Master Plans. It is the most gradual of all of Oakland's cycling routes to the hills, and thus is widely used by both commuter and recreational cyclists. On a portion of Tunnel Road, south of Charing Cross Road, water seeps from a nearby subsurface spring and collects perennially on the roadway.

There have been reports of numerous bicycle accidents on this section of Tunnel Road, citing the damage as an ongoing problem. The East Bay Bicycle Coalition and other local cyclists have lobbied the City to address this condition. The City took initial steps to address it by installing signs warning bicyclists of the slippery road conditions. Public Works also studied the area and

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determined that the seepage of natural spring waters onto the roadway cannot be eliminated without significant and expensive roadway reconstruction.

The HES Program provides grant funding to jurisdictions on a competitive basis to improve safety on roadways. Each year, local agencies compete for HES funds by submitting Candidate Safety projects to Caltrans for review and analysis. Caltrans prioritizes these projects statewide, and releases an annual HES Program Plan that identifies the projects approved for funding.

The City submitted a total of seven (7) applications for projects eligible for HES funding. The Tunnel Road Bicycle Safety Improvement project was one of 12 out of the 400 applications submitted statewide that received funding.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

Acceptance of this grant will enable Oakland to improve public safety for bicyclists and other road users on Tunnel Road. It will reduce road maintenance costs, by reducing the need for frequent sweeping and cleaning of this area.

There is an expected savings to the public in decreased property damage and personal injuries as a result of this project. Use of grant funds will allow the City to address the condition on Tunnel Road without using limited existing transportation monies.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Tunnel Road Improved Bicycle Safety Project will redesign and reconstruct a 300-foot segment of the roadway to allow water flow to be channeled under the road. It will install new bicycle signs on Tunnel from Hiller to Skyline, which will also alert drivers to the presence of cyclists on the road. The project improves bicycle safety and helps reduce conflicts between cyclists and drivers.

Engineering and design of the project will begin upon approval by Council. Construction is estimated to be completed by December 2007.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: The project enhances eco-tourism in our City, by improving conditions for the increasing numbers of local and out-of-state professional and amateur bicycle racers throughout the week, as well as for visiting weekend riders seeking opportunities for exercise and recreation.

Environmental: Improvement of safety is a key factor in encouraging cycling. Cycling is a form of transportation and recreation that does not generate air pollution.

Social Equity: There are no projected social equity opportunities.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

Bicyclists and pedestrians on Tunnel Road must all access the road, as there is no sidewalk. Senior and disabled persons will benefit from the improved safety when bicycling or walking in this area.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RATIONALE

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the City Administrator, or her designee, to accept, and appropriate up to \$360,000.00 in FY 2005-06 HES Funds to construct the Tunnel Road Bicycle Safety Improvement Project. The resolution also approves the appropriation of \$40,000 in matching funds from the Local Measure B Funds for Federally Funded Projects.

The grant funds are needed to address existing safety issues for bicyclists on Tunnel Road.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the resolution, which will enable the City Administrator to accept and appropriate \$360,000.00 for the Tunnel Road Bicycle Safety Improvement Project.

Respectfully submitted,



RAUL GODINEZ II, P.E.
Director, Public Works Agency

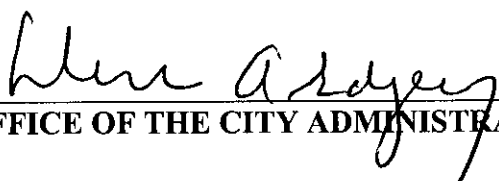
Reviewed by:

Michael J. Neary, P.E.
Assistant Director, Public Works Agency
Design & Construction Services Department

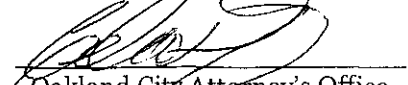
Wladimir Wlassowsky, P.E.
Manager, Transportation Services Division

Prepared by:
Kathryn Hughes
Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO
THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:


OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

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Public Works Committee
January 10, 2006


Oakland City Attorney's Office

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2005 DEC 28 PREPARED BY RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE STATE HAZARD ELIMINATION AND SAFETY (HES) PROGRAM FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF THREE HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$360,000.00) FOR THE TUNNEL ROAD BICYCLE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) disburses federal funds from the Hazard Elimination Safety (HES) Program for safety improvements that eliminate or reduce the number and severity of traffic accidents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland applied for and was awarded HES funds in the amount of \$360,000.00 for the Tunnel Road Bicycle Safety Improvement Project; and

WHEREAS, the HES project will allow the City to design and reconstruct a 300-foot section of Tunnel Road, and install bicycle signage on the length of Tunnel Road, to improve safety for cyclists and other road users; and

WHEREAS, the City will provide a local match in the amount of \$40,000.00 from Local Measure B Funds for Federally Funded Projects (Fund 2211, Project C184020); and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Agency has requested a waiver of the 1.5% public art fee for this project because HES guidelines prohibit the use of grant funds for public art; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council authorizes the City Administrator, or her designee, to accept and appropriate the Hazard Elimination Safety funds in the amount of \$360,000.00 for Tunnel Road Bicycle Safety Improvement Project; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City's 1.5% public art fee for this project is hereby waived; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Administrator, or her designee, is authorized, on behalf of the City of Oakland, to execute and submit all documents, payment requests, and related actions, as well as to appropriate any additional grant funds received for the completion of this project.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 2006

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES – BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, AND
PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
Of the City of Oakland, California