

The County of Yuba

Community Development and Services Agency



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Community Development and Services Agency, Samuel Bunton

SUBJECT: Community Development and Services: Adopt Resolution Authorizing Public Works Director to Execute a Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Agreement.

DATE: 10/10/2023

NUMBER: 502/2023

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Public Works Director to execute a Restricted Grant Agreement, including any amendments and requests for payment as necessary, with the California Department of Transportation, as related to a Sustainable Transportation Planning grant to develop a project-level Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the unincorporated, but urbanized, areas of Linda, West Linda, and Olivehurst to accommodate the impacts of climate change.

BACKGROUND:

For FY 2023-24, the State is making available funds to support and implement a competitive Sustainable Transportation Planning grant program for Climate Adaptation. Staff successfully submitted a grant application to develop a project-level Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the unincorporated, but urbanized, areas of Linda, West Linda, and Olivehurst to accommodate the impacts of climate change. The project areas rely upon drainage infrastructure that has evolved over time. These are Gold Rush communities, established in the 1850's, with most homes and infrastructure built prior to 1960. The existing drainage infrastructure is predominantly roadside ditches which are insufficient to carry runoff from even a moderately sized storm event. There is insufficient rights-of-way and available fall for widening and deepening the existing ditches to be a viable solution. The project area is now experiencing more frequent localized flooding due to climate change, both longer in duration and greater in area, which impacts transportation corridors and private properties. When longer duration, higher intensity rain events overwhelm the roadside ditches, bicyclists and pedestrians are forced into the travel

way with motorized traffic. In many cases, the traveled lanes themselves are flooded. The project area is experiencing widespread transportation issues due to a lack of safe places to walk, bike, or even drive a vehicle. Local transit services have been impacted, as some roads become impassable for transit vehicles. The current drainage system is so overwhelmed that standing water can often remain for several days.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed project will develop a project-level, Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that identifies the projects necessary to retrofit the existing infrastructure in the project area to accommodate the ever-increasing future runoff from weather events caused by climate change. The CIP will also incorporate water quality - Best Management Practices (BMPs) and develop conceptual designs for critical improvements. Potential mitigation strategies include eliminating the roadside ditches and replacing them with adequately sized storm drains that can accommodate anticipated future increases in runoff; constructing curbs, gutters, and sidewalks; adding or up-sizing detention basins; and incorporating bike lanes where possible.

The capital improvements identified and evaluated by this project will allow the County to prioritize, design, budget, and construct projects that will decrease the frequency and severity of localized flooding, improve access to multiple modes of transportation (including transit), and improve water quality. Absent this project-level Capital Improvement Plan, the County will not be in a position to prioritize, design, or coordinate projects to address climate change in the project area. The public will ultimately benefit by a decrease in the frequency and severity of flooding. The public will also benefit from a more reliable and safe transportation network that accommodates all modes of transportation, including transit. A final benefit to the public will be the inclusion of water-quality, Best Management Practices being incorporated into all proposed projects.

Not funding this project will result in greater localized flooding, damage to private homes, interruptions in transportation and transit services, damage to local roadways, and increased maintenance and cleanup costs. Not funding this project would also inhibit the County's efforts to promote active transportation, which is dependent on the construction of sidewalks and bike lanes/routes along the rights-of-way currently used for roadside ditches.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Due to time constraints, staff is presenting this item directly to the full Board for consideration. An adopted resolution authorizing the Director of Public Works to execute grant agreements is due to the State by October 15, 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT:

General Fund -	None
Non-General Fund -	\$450,000.00
Source of Funds -	\$396,000.00 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant
	\$ 54,000.00 County Road Funds (Matching Funds)

Attachments

502/2023 Resolution