

STAFF REPORT
City of Lancaster

CC 8
5/28/2013
MVB

Date: May 28, 2013

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Brian S. Ludicke, Planning Director

Subject: **Southern California Association of Governments Sustainability Program - Active Transportation Assistance**

Recommendation:

Adopt **Resolution No. 13-16**, authorizing the City Manager to apply for assistance under the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Sustainability Program-Active Transportation for the development of a Master Plan of Complete Streets, supporting the development of said plan, and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute all documents relative to this action.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

Background:

The City has been engaged in planning for and implementing active transportation over the past three years. Examples include the preparation and adoption of the Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways, implementation of projects to add bike lanes, and installation of improvements to improve pedestrian safety. Through these efforts, the City is actively working to improve the health, safety, economic vitality, and sustainability of the community. The development of “complete streets” policies and approaches, which have been shown to improve community health, provide improved safety for bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists, and improve property values and economic activity, is an important step in continuing to build a more livable and sustainable City.

One of the steps in developing the “complete streets” approach for the City is creating a Master Plan of Complete Streets, which will provide long-term guidance in defining appropriate street designs for different areas of the community. Staff resources are already committed to working on this effort, as it is a part of the implementation for the Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways. The Master Plan of Complete Streets would also influence future decisions regarding the form and character of the City through subdivision, land use, and design requirements.

Staff is proposing to use the City-wide traffic model created as part of the General Plan update in 2009 to assist in the development of the Master Plan of Complete Streets. The use of the model would allow for staff to evaluate different street designs in terms of desired speeds, lane

configurations, and expected traffic volume. Further, use of the model would allow staff to understand the effects of the proposed master plan on the overall street network. SCAG, as the regional council of governments in Southern California, offers through a competitive process technical assistance for projects and programs that help implement the region's adopted Sustainable Communities Strategy. In this case, the technical assistance requested would be for the operation of the traffic model (expertise that in-house staff does not have) and to evaluate the street design alternatives that would meet long-term City objectives to properly balance vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian use.

The City has previously been successful in obtaining planning assistance through the SCAG Compass Blueprint program to develop the vision plan for the Southeast Transit Village area. Additional work on long-term street design and development requirements for this area are proceeding forward as part of the Transit-Oriented Development overlay zone work currently being done in the downtown area.

BSL/jr

Attachment:
Resolution No. 13-16