

STAFF REPORT
City of Lancaster

CC 5
11/12/14
MVB

Date: November 12, 2014

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Robert C. Neal, Director of Public Works

Subject: **Active Transportation Program Grant Funds - 5th Street East Corridor Improvements**

Recommendations:

Approve the plan for use of Active Transportation Program (ATP) funding, which includes:

- a) Increase estimated revenues in Account No. 399-3301-301 by \$85,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015
- b) Appropriate \$85,000.00 in ATP funds to Capital Improvement Account No. 399-15ST055-924, 5th Street East Corridor Improvements Project

Fiscal Impact:

With these actions, sufficient funds are available in Account No. 399-15ST055-924 to begin design efforts. The remaining \$1,353,297.00 will be appropriated in Fiscal Year 2015-2016 to complete the project.

Background:

The ATP is a new program that consolidated existing federal and state transportation programs, including the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA), and State Safe Routes to School (SRTS), into a single program with a focus to make California a national leader in active transportation. The purpose of ATP is to increase use of active modes of transportation by increasing the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking, increase safety and mobility for non-motorized users, enhance public health, ensure that disadvantaged communities fully share in the benefits of the program, and to provide a broad spectrum of projects to benefit many types of active transportation users.

On March 21, 2014, Caltrans announced a “Call for Projects” for Cycle 1 of the ATP program, in which \$360 million in funds was available. Caltrans announced that 199 project applications were selected from the 771 applications submitted. The City of Lancaster was awarded two of the four project applications submitted, one for improvements on 5th Street East, from Avenue H-8 to Avenue J-4, and the other to continue planning of the SRTS Master Plan.

A total of \$1,438,297.00 was awarded to the City for the improvements on 5th Street East, from Avenue H-8 to Avenue J-4. These improvements will include the construction of pedestrian curb bulb-outs with ADA compliant curb ramps to shorten crossing distances at several locations along 5th Street East, and new traffic striping to install buffered bike lanes along the corridor. These proposed improvements are in compliance with the Master Plan of Trails and Bikeways.

The 5th Street East Corridor Improvements project was selected based on the need for safety improvements for students walking or bicycling to and from school. This corridor is adjacent to three public schools: El Dorado Elementary, Linda Verde Elementary, and Piute Middle School. The Lancaster School District and the individual schools were consulted in the development of the project applications. In addition to the proposed infrastructure improvements, ATP funds will be used to organize and promote walking and biking education events and equipment needs for improved crossing guard actions (signs, vests, etc.).

SC:pjp