



AGENDA BILL

Agenda Item No. 5(B)

Date: June 18, 2013

To: El Cerrito City Council

From: Emily Alter, Community Sustainability Analyst/Project Consultant
Melanie Mintz, Interim Community Development Director
Yvetteh Ortiz, Engineering Manager

Subject: Application for Federal Funding through the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC's) portion of the OneBayArea Grant (OBAG) program

ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt a resolution applying for \$3,467,958 in federal Surface Transportation Program (STP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), and/or Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding through the County Portion of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC's) OneBayArea Grant (OBAG) Program, committing the necessary non-federal match, and stating the assurance to complete the Ohlone Greenway Station Access, Safety and Placemaking Improvements.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

On March 8, 2013, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) announced a call for projects using funding available through the OneBayArea Grant (OBAG) program. Funding is available for four types of transportation improvements: Local Streets and Roads Preservation (LSRP), Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC), Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements, and Safe Routes to School/Transit (SR2S). MTC has allocated \$45.2 million in federal funding for projects and programs in Contra Costa County. The OBAG program was developed with the goal of rewarding jurisdictions that have accepted housing allocations through the Regional Housing Need Allocation process, promoting transportation investments in Priority Development Areas (PDAs) as approved by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), and increasing flexibility for counties by eliminating targets for funding programs. The OBAG Program requires an 11.47 percent local match in non-federal funding for each phase of the project.

The Ohlone Greenway Station Access, Safety and Placemaking Improvements project was conceptually developed in the Ohlone Greenway Master Plan adopted in 2009. The City's General Plan emphasizes the need to create pedestrian-friendly places, including enhancements to the usability and aesthetic of the Greenway. The El Cerrito Circulation Plan adopted in 2007 identifies the Ohlone Greenway crossings at Cutting, Hill, Central and Faimount as opportunity sites for crosswalks and lighting improvements. The project fulfills the OBAG goals by improving the bicycle and pedestrian routes to transit, commercial nodes and housing; bringing new vibrancy to our PDA to encourage housing development; and, increasing user safety and accessibility at the El Cerrito Plaza and El Cerrito del Norte BART Stations.

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The project is located along the Fairmount to Central Avenue and Hill to Cutting Boulevard blocks of the Ohlone Greenway, parallel to the City's San Pablo Avenue Priority Development Area. The project will improve and widen the Greenway through the two BART stations, install two new crosswalks, upgrade three existing crosswalks, formalize clear pedestrian desire lines, and establish "high use pedestrian zones" with new striping, special pavement and improved signage at all the crosswalks. The project will also add a crosswalk, convert a lane to right-only and add a pedestrian bulb-out at the entrance to Safeway to increase pedestrian safety and reduce congestion associated with Safeway's entrance. The project is designed to tie-in to onsite pedestrian improvements to take place at Safeway. Placemaking elements such as native landscaping, seating and lighting will also be included to increase the sense of connectivity to the rest of the Greenway and establish a strong sense of place at these transportation gateways to the community. Finally, as a part of this project the existing Ohlone Greenway surveillance system will be upgraded and expanded between the two BART Stations to improve security. Staff has been working closely with BART and concept plans are in keeping with BART's station improvement goals. The proposed improvements, as included in the grant application, are shown in Exhibit A.

The estimated cost for planning, design and construction of the Ohlone Greenway Station Access, Safety and Placemaking Improvements project is \$3,917,934. On April 10th, BART committed to providing \$300,000 in local match funding for the project via their letter of support for the project. The \$149,387 required additional match funding will be provided through the previously adopted Capital Improvement Project *Ohlone Greenway Improvements between Hill and Blake* funded by Safeway's Park-in-Lieu contribution. In April, staff submitted to the CCTA an OBAG grant application for the remaining \$3,468,547. The CCTA Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and Planning Committees have approved the application for an award in this amount, but receipt of the grant is dependent upon CCTA Board approval on June 19th before final recommendation to MTC.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The federal funds from the County's Portion of MTC's OBAG Program will be in the amount of \$3,468,547. The required 11.47 percent local match of \$449,387 will be provided by BART and through the Ohlone Greenway Improvements between Hill and Blake Capital Improvement Project Safeway Park-in-Lieu contribution.

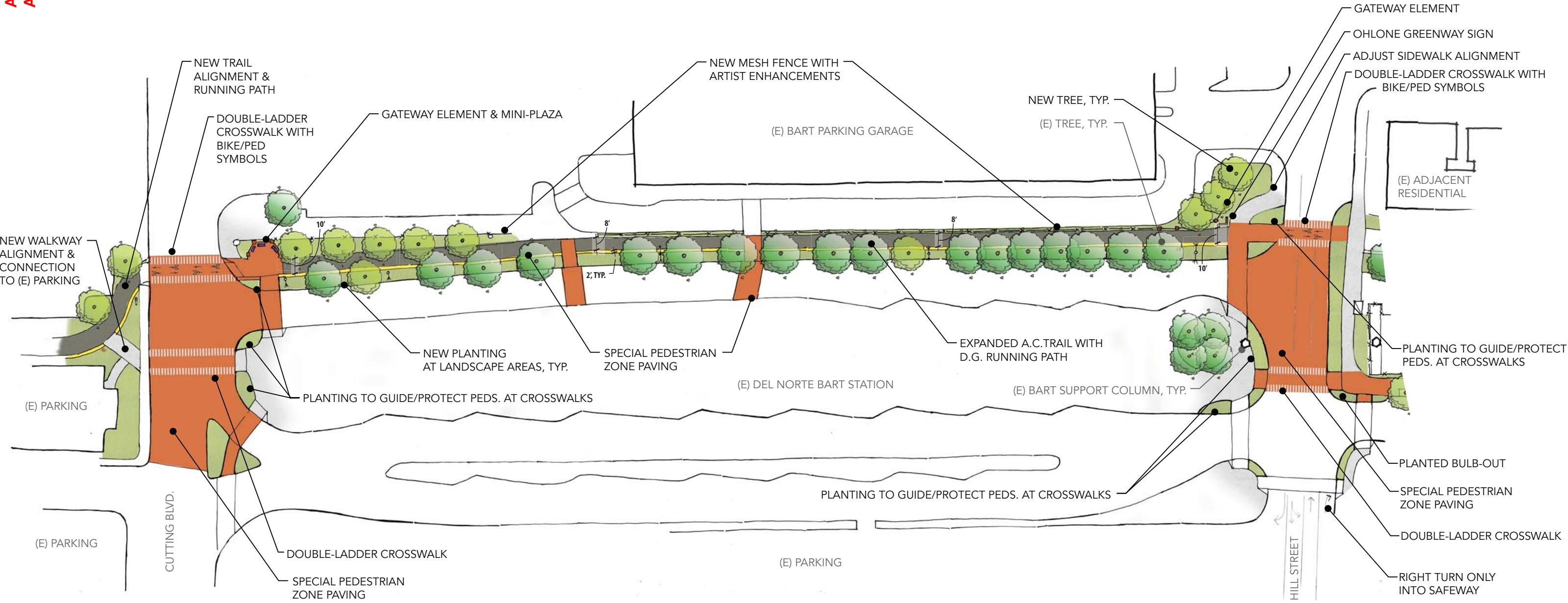
Reviewed by:



Scott Hanin, City Manager

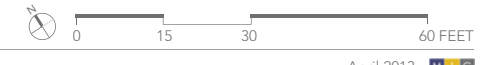
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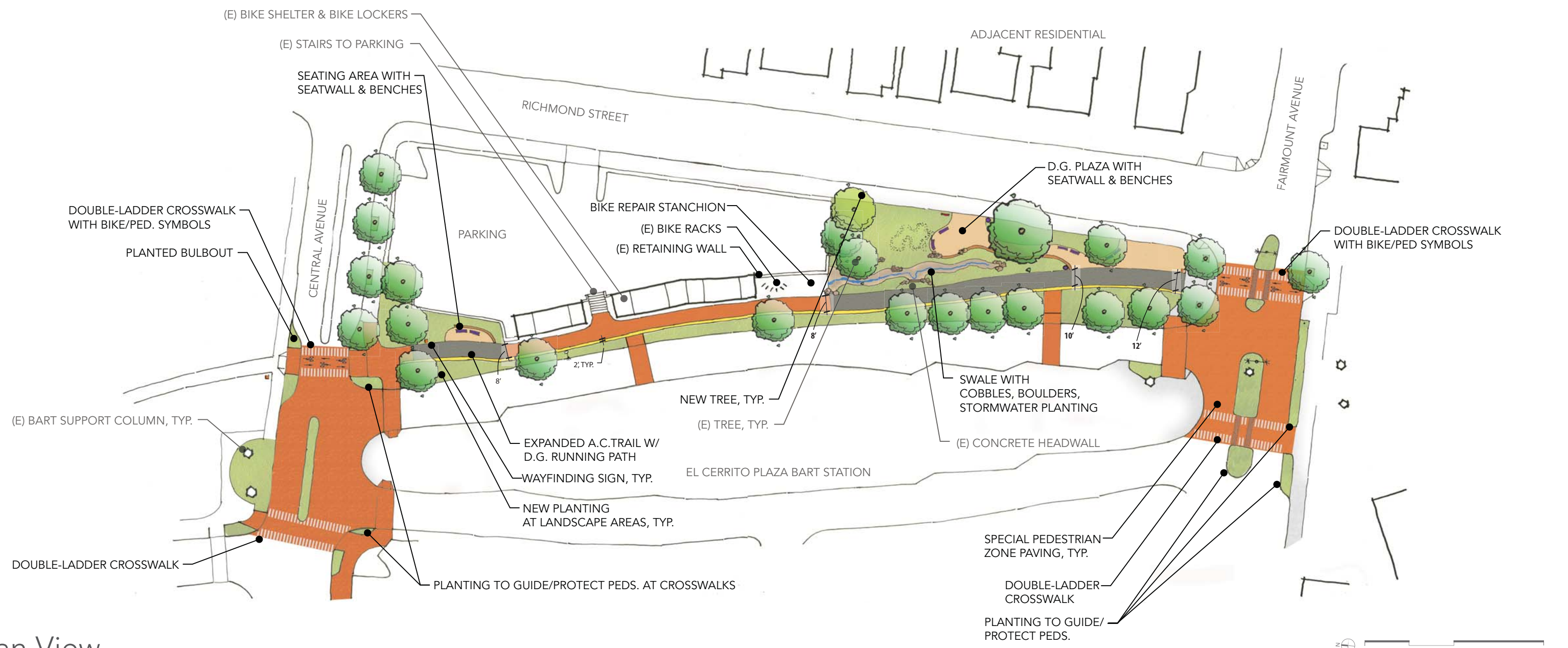
1. Grant Application Exhibit A – Proposed Improvements
2. Resolution



Plan View

Ohlone Greenway, Del Norte Bart, Hill Street to Cutting Boulevard





Plan View

Ohlone Greenway, Fairmount Avenue to Central Avenue

RESOLUTION 2013-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO TO AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING ASSIGNED TO MTC, COMMITTING ANY NECESSARY MATCHING FUNDS AND STATING THE ASSURANCE TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of El Cerrito (herein referred to as APPLICANT) is submitting an application to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for \$3,467,958 in funding assigned to MTC for programming discretion, including but not limited to federal funding administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) such as Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funding and/or Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding (herein collectively referred to as REGIONAL DISCRETIONARY FUNDING) for the Ohlone Greenway Station Access, Safety and Placemaking Improvements (herein referred to as PROJECT) for the OneBayArea Grant Program (herein referred to as PROGRAM); and

WHEREAS, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (Public Law 112-141, July 6, 2012) and any extensions or successor legislation for continued funding (collectively, MAP 21) authorize various federal funding programs including, but not limited to the STP (23 U.S.C. § 133), the CMAQ (23 U.S.C. § 149) and the TA (23 U.S.C. § 213); and

WHEREAS, state statutes, including California Streets and Highways Code 182.6 and 182.7 provide various funding programs for the programming discretion of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to MAP-21, and any regulations promulgated thereunder, eligible project sponsors wishing to receive federal funds for a project shall submit an application first with the appropriate MPO for review and inclusion in the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and

WHEREAS, MTC is the MPO and RTPA for the nine counties of the San Francisco Bay region; and

WHEREAS, MTC has adopted a Regional Project Funding Delivery Policy (MTC Resolution No. 3606, revised) that sets out procedures governing the application and use of federal funds; and

WHEREAS, APPLICANT is an eligible sponsor for REGIONAL DISCRETIONARY FUNDING; and

WHEREAS, as part of the application for REGIONAL DISCRETIONARY FUNDING, MTC requires a resolution adopted by the responsible implementing agency stating the following:

1. The commitment of any required matching funds;
2. That the sponsor understands that the REGIONAL DISCRETIONARY FUNDING is fixed at the programmed amount, and therefore any cost increase cannot be expected to be funded with additional REGIONAL DISCRETIONARY FUNDING;

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3. That the project will comply with the procedures, delivery milestones and funding deadlines specified in the Regional Project Funding Delivery Policy (MTC Resolution No. 3606, revised); and
4. The assurance of the sponsor to complete the project as described in the application, subject to environmental clearance, and if approved, as included in MTC's federal Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and
5. That the project will comply with all project-specific requirements as set forth in the PROGRAM; and
6. That the project (transit only) will comply with MTC Resolution No. 3866, revised, which sets forth the requirements of MTC's Transit Coordination Implementation Plan to more efficiently deliver transit projects in the region.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Cerrito that the APPLICANT is hereby authorized to execute and file an application for funding for the PROJECT for REGIONAL DISCRETIONARY FUNDING under MAP-21 for continued funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution affirms the APPLICANT'S statement of the following:

1. APPLICANT will provide any required matching funds;
2. APPLICANT understands that the REGIONAL DISCRETIONARY FUNDING for the project is fixed at the MTC approved programmed amount, and that any cost increases must be funded by the APPLICANT from other funds, and that APPLICANT does not expect any cost increases to be funded with additional REGIONAL DISCRETIONARY FUNDING;
3. APPLICANT understands the funding deadlines associated with these funds and will comply with the provisions and requirements of the Regional Project Funding Delivery Policy (MTC Resolution No. 3606, revised) and APPLICANT has, and will retain the expertise, knowledge and resources necessary to deliver federally-funded transportation projects, and has assigned, and will maintain a single point of contact for all FHWA-funded transportation projects to coordinate within the agency and with the respective Congestion Management Agency (CMA), MTC, Caltrans and FHWA on all communications, inquires or issues that may arise during the federal programming and delivery process for all FHWA-funded transportation projects implemented by APPLICANT;
4. PROJECT will be implemented as described in the complete application and in this resolution, subject to environmental clearance, and, if approved, for the amount approved by MTC and programmed in the federal TIP;
5. APPLICANT and the PROJECT will comply with the requirements as set forth in MTC programming guidelines and project selection procedures for the PROGRAM; and
6. APPLICANT (for a transit project only) agrees to comply with the requirements of MTC's Transit Coordination Implementation Plan as set forth in MTC Resolution 3866, revised.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the APPLICANT is an eligible sponsor of REGIONAL DISCRETIONARY FUNDING funded projects.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the APPLICANT is authorized to submit an application for REGIONAL DISCRETIONARY FUNDING for the PROJECT.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there is no legal impediment to APPLICANT making applications for the funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there is no pending or threatened litigation that might in any way adversely affect the proposed PROJECT, or the ability of APPLICANT to deliver such PROJECT.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that APPLICANT authorizes its Executive Director, General Manager, or designee to execute and file an application with MTC for REGIONAL DISCRETIONARY FUNDING for the PROJECT as referenced in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be transmitted to the MTC in conjunction with the filing of the application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MTC is requested to support the application for the PROJECT described in the resolution and to include the PROJECT, if approved, in MTC's federal TIP.

I CERTIFY that at a regular meeting on June 18, 2013 the City Council of the City of El Cerrito passed this Resolution by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on June 18, 2013.

Cheryl Morse, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Gregory B. Lyman, Mayor