

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: July 6, 2021
Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Local Road Safety Plan Grant

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SUMMARY

The action before the City Council is to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application and enter into a funding agreement with Caltrans for the development of a Local Road Safety Plan.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application for the development of a Local Road Safety Plan and to enter into a funding agreement with the California Department of Transportation in the amount of \$45,000 and that staff bring back a scope of work for Transportation Commission review.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt Resolution No. 2021-68, authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application for the development of a Local Road Safety Plan and to enter into a funding agreement with the California Department of Transportation in the amount of \$45,000.

BACKGROUND

Local Road Safety Plans (LRSP) create a data-focused framework to systematically identify and analyze safety problems and recommend safety improvements on local roads.

The LRSP process emphasizes connecting with partners, such as local schools, County agencies, and community groups. The plan begins with a summary of the City's overall vision and goals. Data is then collected and analyzed to understand the current state of safety on the roads. Several emphasis areas are chosen to focus on, such as night-time crashes or pedestrian safety. Each emphasis area includes a description of the issue, a goal, and a list of strategies. Finally, the plan concludes with a process for evaluation and implementation. For a more complete description of the planning process, see Attachment 1.

Non-competitive funding is available from Caltrans on a "first come, first serve" basis to assist in the development of an LRSP. A short application with a scope of work is required. Albany qualifies for \$40,000 and must contribute \$5,000 to the project. An LSRP will also be a

prerequisite to apply for other sources of State or Federal funding, such as funding from the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

On June 24th, the Transportation Commission unanimously recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to submit a grant application.

DISCUSSION

In addition to planning specific safety improvements, an LRSP could contribute to updating the Active Transportation Plan (ATP). The safety data analysis has significant overlap with the existing conditions analysis of the active transportation plan. In particular, the LRSP will involve work such as conducting bicycle and pedestrian counts, mapping the bicycle and pedestrian network, and updating the existing facilities map. All of these are important for analyzing local road safety, but also necessary first steps for updating the ATP. When developing the scope for the local road safety plan, staff will look for opportunities to provide existing conditions relevant for an active transportation plan update and/or utilizing this effort as a starting point for updating the active transportation plan.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Improving the safety of local roads will increase the safety and comfort for active transportation users and help achieve city climate action goals for reduction in single-use vehicle emissions.

SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY CONSIDERATIONS

Pedestrians and cyclists are at particular risk of injury in roadway collisions. Issues identified in a Local Road Safety Plan are intended to improve safety for these vulnerable roadway users.

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE

Objective 3 in the Strategic Plan is to “promote active transportation and safety.” The LRSP would directly advance the goal of enhancing street safety as well as providing groundwork for an update to the active transportation plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The grant would provide \$40,000 in state funding and the City would contribute \$5,000 toward the project.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 2021-68
2. Local Road Safety Plan Briefing Sheet