

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: ROB SPRINKLE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR SUBMITTAL OF
HOUSING INCENTIVE POOL PROGRAM FOR DOWNTOWN
HOUSING/OPERATIONS ENHANCEMENTS – FIBER OPTICS
UPGRADE

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Transportation and Public Works Department that the City Council, by resolution: 1) authorize the filing of an application for federal Surface Transportation Program (STP)/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant through the Metropolitan Transportation Commission One Bay Area Grant Program 2 (OBAG 2- Housing Incentive Pool Program) for the installation of high speed fiber to interconnect traffic signals in the downtown core providing an opportunity for private partnerships with internet providers for future use; 2) authorize the use of non-general funds (local utility impact fees and gas tax funds) to match the federal funds being requested; and 3) provide assurances that the City will complete the projects and appropriate federal funds into the projects.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) approved the proposed project for the installation of high-speed fiber to interconnect traffic signals in the downtown core providing an opportunity for private partnerships with internet providers for future use. The project will be submitted to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for funding in the North Bay Sub-region OBAG 2- Housing Incentive Pool Program (HIPP). This item supports City Council Goal 5: Invest in and sustain infrastructure and transportation, and Goal 9: Foster a 21st century city and organization, and Goal 10: Foster a strong downtown and overall economic development of the community.

BACKGROUND

On October 23, 2019 MTC revision the framework to the Housing Incentive Pool Program which included a \$5 million set-aside for four North Bay counties. The set-

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aside is intended to help finance eligible infrastructure that will support affordable housing projects in Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and Transit Priority Areas (TPAs).

The MTC has made available a portion of that funding to Sonoma County in the amount of be \$400,000. These funds must be eligible under Surface Transportation Program/Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program, as well as One Bay Area Grant guidelines.

In May 2020, the City of Santa Rosa was the only agency in the County to submit a letter of interest to the SCTA.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

No prior City Council action has been taken relating to HIPP.

ANALYSIS

This project will upgrade the existing traffic signal interconnect infrastructure in the downtown and railroad square area from copper wiring media to a fiber optic backbone. This improved communication backbone will include upgrades from Santa Rosa municipal yard, down College Avenue to Healdsburg Avenue, B Street, Seventh Street, Fifth Street, Third Street, First Street, Santa Rosa Avenue, Morgan Street, and Davis Street. Portions of Mendocino Avenue, D Street, and E Street are also included. This will cover all of the downtown and Railroad Square signalized intersections.

This fiber optic backbone will allow enhancement to the communication system and provide increase data speed and capabilities for our traffic system to allow for technologies such as connected vehicles and traffic signal surveillance. The upgrade will replace the antiquated 170 traffic signal controllers with a more robust and technologically advanced 2070 traffic signal controller and ethernet switches. This improvement allows for more efficient movement of goods and services in the downtown core which effects all modes of mobility including bicycle, pedestrian, vehicle and transit operations. This technology prepares the City for the potential of pursuing Smart City strategies that require more data collection and efficient data transfer.

Installing fiber optic cable will allow for the use and partnering with groups such as the Renewal Enterprise District to enhance connectivity for high speed internet to businesses and housing projects in the vicinity. This will enhance and provide infrastructure to boost the ability for remote working in this area by providing another potential option for high/speed connectivity. This improvement allows for the capacity of public Wi-Fi on this network as well.

The grant process requires the passage of a resolution by the local jurisdiction which authorizes filing an application, authorizes the local match (11.47% minimum) for the federally funded project and assures that the project will be delivered in accordance with

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MTC Resolution 3606. The City has a record of successfully delivering federal projects in accordance with MTC Resolution 3606.

FISCAL IMPACT

Matching funds of 11.47%, or \$45,880, will be funded with gas tax funds from the Traffic Signal Interconnect account, JL 17269.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

It is anticipated that this project will be Categorically Exempt pursuant to CEQA Guideline Section 15301 *Class 1* since the project consists of a minor alteration of existing public facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing use.

NOTIFICATION

Not Applicable

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution

CONTACT

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