

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: JANUARY 12, 2011

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

**BY: LOUIS CELAYA, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER
RAMIRO ADEVA, CITY ENGINEER**

**SUBJECT: 2011 MTA CALL FOR PROJECTS APPLICATION FOR PALO
COMADO CREEK OVER-CROSSING PROJECT**

In November, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced the initiation of the 2011 Call for Projects (CFP). MTA is responsible for allocating discretionary federal, state, and local transportation funds to improve all modes of surface transportation, and also prepares the Los Angeles County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A key component of the TIP is the CFP, a competitive process that distributes discretionary capital transportation funds to cities, counties and other transit operators for regionally significant projects.

Staff has reviewed the CFP modal guidelines and is prepared to submit one project, the “Palo Comado Creek Over-Crossing Project,” under the Pedestrian Improvement (PI) mode. For the entire 2011 CFP, available funding is estimated at approximately 100,000 million dollars, substantially less than previous CFP, and will be spread across eight separate modal categories. Actual funding for the 2011 CFP will not be available to awardees until 2016. Application submittals for the CFP are due by 5:00 p.m. on January 28, 2011.

The Palo Comado Creek Over-crossing Project consists of construction of a multi-purpose (pedestrian/equestrian/bike) bridge on the north side of Driver Avenue, east of Colodny Drive, adjacent to Old Agoura Park and the horse arena. Currently, there is a narrow, 4-foot sidewalk across the existing bridge on Driver Avenue that provides limited connection in an east-west direction. Furthermore, the trail is not being used by the equestrian community since the existing pedestrian crossing is so close to motorists on Driver Avenue, immediately adjacent to the sidewalk. Also, there are three schools (Agoura High School, Montessori, and Children’s Learning Center) and senior housing in the area, which are forced to share the existing 4-foot sidewalk. The new creek overpass will provide a direct east-west connection, while providing safer travel for pedestrian, equestrian, and bicyclists. The improvement will encourage more use of the existing trail system and encourage students and residents residing in the area to use the connection to walk to local high schools, parks, and neighboring public transportation stops.

Additionally, the City is also currently working on the Project Study Report for the US 101 Palo Comado Interchange, which includes proposed pedestrian and bicycle improvements. The Palo Comado Creek Overcrossing Project will further the effort to close the gap that currently exists

between existing and future trails, consistent with the approved Trail Network Plan adopted with the General Plan Update.

For this mode, the required local match is 20%, and staff is proposing a 40-50% local match to keep the application competitive. As identified earlier, actual funding will not be awarded until 2016, again affording the City the ability to secure additional funding sources for the local match, thereby lessening the contribution from the General Fund. The estimated cost for this project is \$60,000. The estimated project cost breakdown is as follows:

Total Cost: \$30,000
Local Match: \$30,000 (General Fund, Quimby, Other Grant Funding)

It should be noted that securing CFP funding is necessary to proceed with this project.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council consider the following options:

- 1) Authorize staff to submit an application for funding the Palo Comado Creek Overcrossing Project through the MTA 2011 Call for Projects, and authorize the local match identified for the Pedestrian Improvement mode; or
- 2) Not authorize the submittal of an application in the MTA 2011 Call for Projects.