



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Todd Parton, City Manager
DATE: March 16, 2021
SUBJECT: **Consideration of an IH-10 Corridor Strategic Plan and Authorize Mayor Lara to Coordinate with Area Stakeholders**

Background and Analysis:

The San Geronio Pass (Pass) continues to be one of the California's fastest growing regions. This growth has now expanded into the Cities of Banning and Calimesa. An adequate multi-modal transportation system will be vital to the economic viability, environmental protection, and quality of life enhancement for the residents and businesses along the IH-10 corridor. Significant financial resources will be required to upgrade and expand all modes of transportation within the Pass. Competition for limited funds to improve the transportation upgrades and enhancements will be fierce, especially from other areas within Riverside County and Southern California.

A coordinated and cooperative effort by stakeholders in the Pass area will help to increase chances for much needed funding. The development of a strategic plan for a fully integrated multi-modal system for the Pass' IH-10 corridor could help identify and prioritize needs. It could also provide a policy framework by which all the stakeholders might mutually support one another. In December 2020, Beaumont City staff prepared an outline for an IH-10 Corridor Strategic Plan and identified the key stakeholders as Riverside County – District 5, City of Banning, City of Beaumont, City of Calimesa, and the Morongo Band of Indians. A copy of the project outline, titled "Transforming the Pass, IH-10 Corridor Strategic Plan – 2022 to 2052," was shared as a rough concept with the City managers of Banning and Calimesa as well as Supervisor Hewitt. It is included in Attachment A.

The strategic planning concept provides for a comprehensive process that identifies the needs of each stakeholder and develops an implementation plan to meet short-term, medium-term, and long-term objectives. It also emphasizes that a strategic plan needs to be a living document which is updated on a regular basis and for which an oversight committee should be established.

Grant funding may be available through the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) through its Sustainable Transportation Grant Program. This program awards grants on a competitive basis to develop regional, multi-modal transportation plans. Applications for Fiscal Year 2021-22 were due on February 12, 2021, and City staff anticipates that the next call for applications will be Fall 2021 for the Fiscal Year 2022-23 grant cycle. Attachment B includes a copy of the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Grant Application Guide – Sustainable Communities and Strategic Partnerships.

Beaumont City staff feels that this grant is a good match for the IH-10 corridor strategic plan concept. Since this grant application is geared toward multi-jurisdictional planning efforts, it would be imperative that all stakeholders either officially support or join a grant application as co-applicants. One of the stakeholders would also need to serve as the lead agency.

Other grant opportunities may be pursued as well. Beaumont City staff monitors grant and funding opportunities offered through regional agencies such as the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Official buy-in and support by the stakeholders would also likely enhance the pursuit of these other funding opportunities.

City staff proposes that Mayor Lara be officially authorized by the Beaumont City Council to work the Mayors of Banning and Calimesa, Morongo leadership, and Supervisor Hewitt to secure official support for the IH-10 corridor strategic plan concept. Official support could be memorialized through a joint resolution or other means formally adopted by each governing body.

Fiscal Impact:

City staff estimates that it cost approximately \$15,600 to prepare the strategic plan outline and prepare this report.

Recommended Action:

City staff recommends that the City Council accept the IH-10 Corridor Strategic Plan concept and authorize Mayor Lara to coordinate with area stakeholders to secure formal support for this cooperative effort.

Attachments:

- A. Outline of Strategic Plan – Transforming the Pass, IH-10 Corridor Strategic Plan 2022-2052
- B. California Department of Transportation – Fiscal Year 2021-22 Grant Application Guide, Sustainable Communities and Strategic Partnerships