



STAFF REPORT
3/26/2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Jaime Arroyo, Grants Manager

SUBJECT: Authorize the City Manager to Submit an Application to the Riverside County Transportation Commission under its FY 25/26 SB 821 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Biennial Call for Projects Program in the Amount of \$727,986 for Avenue 54 Roadway Improvements at Slate Drive

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council consider approving the submission of an application to the Riverside County Transportation Commission under its FY 25/26 SB 821 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Biennial Call for Projects Program in the amount of \$727,986 for Avenue 54 Roadway Improvements at Slate Drive.

BACKGROUND:

TDA Article 3, or SB 821, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program, is provided through the Transportation Development Act (TDA), funded through a ¼ cent of the general sales tax collected statewide. The TDA provides two major sources of funding for public transportation: the Local Transportation Fund (LTF) and the State Transit Assistance (STA). The LTF provides funding for essential transit and commuter rail services, TDA Article 3/SB 821 and planning. Each year, two percent of the LTF revenue is made available for use on bicycle and pedestrian facility projects through TDA Article 3/SB 821 program. This is a discretionary program administered by the Commission. Based on the FY 2024/25 mid-year adjustments, FY 2025/26 apportionments, and project savings, the amount available for programming in the 2025 TDA Article 3/SB 821 Call for Projects is an estimated \$7,279,863.

The SB 821 Call for Projects occurs on a biennial basis, with a release date on the first Monday in February and a close date on the last Thursday in April. Per Commission's Article 3/SB 821 adopted policies, awardees receiving an allocation have 36 months from award, defined as July 1 of the Call for Projects fiscal year cycle to complete construction and submit final claim forms. Where substantial progress or compelling reason for delay can be shown, awardees may be granted time extensions in twelve-month increments at the discretion of the Executive Director.

Eligible Projects: Per TDA, eligible projects include:

- Construction, including related engineering expenses, of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, or for bicycle safety education programs.
- Maintenance of bicycling trails, which are closed to motorized traffic.
- Maintenance and repairs of Class I off-street bicycle facilities only.
- Restriping Class II bicycle lanes.
- Facilities provided for the use of bicycles that serve the needs of commuting bicyclists, including, but not limited to, new trails serving major transportation corridors, secure bicycle parking at employment centers, park and ride lots, and transit terminals where other funds are available.
- Development of comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plans (limitations apply). Plans must emphasize bike/pedestrian facilities that support utilitarian bike/pedestrian travel rather than solely recreational activities.
- Funding for Class III bicycle lane projects is limited to the cost of the lane striping and signage improvements directly related to bicycles. Pavement rehabilitation is not an eligible expense for Class III bicycle lane projects

Temporary facilities, projects in the bid process, or projects that are under construction will not be funded.

Program Schedule

- February 3, 2025 Call for Projects released. Guidelines and application available
- February 4 – April 17, 2025 One-on-One Sessions on program eligibility and guidance
- April 24, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m. Proposals due to RCTC via Rivtrack
- April 23, 2025 Evaluation Committee preliminary meeting
- May 14, 2025 Evaluation Committee meets to discuss scores of proposals
- June 11, 2025 Present recommended funding allocation to Commission for project award
- July 1, 2025 Project Start
- October 1, 2025 Deadline to Execute MOU with Commission
- July 1, 2028 Project Completion

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Staff is requesting authorization from the City Council to submit a grant application in the amount of \$727,986 in SB 821 funds, plus 25% in local matching funds in the amount of \$181,997, for the Avenue 54 Roadway Improvements at Slate Drive. The project is designed to address existing transportation deficiencies within the City of Coachella. The project includes roadway widening, pedestrian and bicycle facility upgrades to support future growth and provide safer mobility options for all users. This project is tied to the overall “Connecting Coachella” Active Transportation Project.

Budget

Application Limit	\$727,986
<u>Local Match (25%)</u>	<u>\$181,997</u>
Total	\$909,983

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize the City Manager to Submit an Application to the Riverside County Transportation Commission under its FY 25/26 SB 821 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Biennial Call for Projects Program in the Amount of \$727,986 for Avenue 54 Roadway Improvements at Slate Drive
2. Not authorize the submission of this application and provide alternative direction

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Engineering Department is proposing to provide 25% in local matching funds (\$181,997) to make the project more competitive to receive grant funding. The local matching funds will be drawn from the City's Street DIF Funds.

ATTACHMENT(S):

None.