



STAFF REPORT
6/12/2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Jaime Arroyo, Grants Manager

SUBJECT: Authorize the City Manager to Submit Grant Application to the State of California Department of Transportation for the Active Transportation Program - Cycle 7 in the Amount of \$22,333,904 for its “Connecting Coachella” Project

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council considers the following:

1. Authorize the City Manager to submit an application to the State of California Department of Transportation for the Active Transportation Program - Cycle 7 in the amount of \$22,333,904 for its “Connecting Coachella” Project;
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute any necessary funding, cooperative agreement, or contractual documents, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality, for accepting the funding.

BACKGROUND:

The Active Transportation Program (ATP) is a competitive statewide program created to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as biking and walking. Senate Bill 99 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 359, Statutes of 2013) and Assembly Bill 101 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 354, Statutes of 2013) created the ATP, and Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) (Beall, Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017) directs additional funding from the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account to the ATP. The goals of the ATP are to:

1. Increase the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking.
2. Increase the safety and mobility of nonmotorized users.
3. Advance the active transportation efforts of regional agencies to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals as established pursuant to Senate Bill 375 (Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008) and Senate Bill 391 (Chapter 585, Statutes of 2009).

4. Enhance public health, including reduction of childhood obesity through the use of programs including, but not limited to, projects eligible for Safe Routes to School Program funding.
5. Ensure that disadvantaged communities fully share in the benefits of the program.
6. Provide a broad spectrum of projects to benefit many types of active transportation users.

In addition to the goals listed in statute, the ATP will also consider state goals and provisions set forth in the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI).

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

The City of Coachella is submitting an application to fund its Connecting Coachella project. Connecting Coachella is the direct result of extensive outreach, engagement, data collection, and feasibility analysis conducted as a part of the 2020 Coachella Active Transportation Plan. Connecting Coachella is also the result of winning the California Transformative Climate Communities grant, which funds projects that address climate change. This grant program allowed the City to complete the PA&ED and 50% design phases for Connecting Coachella, making it a shovel-ready project.

The project will create 3.6 miles of a Class I multi-modal path, 2.6 miles of Class II bike lanes, 1.4 miles of sidewalk, and 14 crosswalk enhancements. The project will connect to the Coachella Valley Link Multi-Use Trail (CV Link) and the Arts and Music Line Connector Multimodal Pathway. Infrastructure improvements also include a roundabout; sidewalks; lighted bollards; 6- to 12-foot landscape buffer with shade trees; high-visibility crosswalks; enhanced signals; and raised medians and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps to improve pedestrian/bicycle safety at crossings, reduce speeding, and improve visibility for walking/biking. New shade structures, benches, drinking fountains, bike repair kiosks, trash cans, and art installations will enhance the path as well.

The project will benefit students, families, residents, and visitors by bringing needed active transportation infrastructure and improved safety, making active transportation a more viable option.

FISCAL IMPACT:

With the submission of this grant application, if approved, the City is committing 15% in local matching funds (\$3,350,086), of which Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) will be responsible for 75% (\$2,512,564) and the City of Coachella 25% (\$837,522).

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize the City Manager to Submit Grant Application to the State of California Department of Transportation for the Active Transportation Program - Cycle 7 in the Amount of \$22,333,904 for its “Connecting Coachella” Project
2. Not Authorize the City Manager to Submit Grant Application to the State of California Department of Transportation for the Active Transportation Program - Cycle 7 in the Amount of \$22,333,904 for its “Connecting Coachella” Project