



CITY OF  
**FOLSOM**  
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

# Folsom City Council Staff Report

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>MEETING DATE:</b>   | 1/9/2024  |
| <b>AGENDA SECTION:</b> | Consent Calendar  |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>        | Resolution No. 11155 – A Resolution Approving the Application for Grant Funds from the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program for a Sustainable Transit Connections to Health Services Planning and Feasibility Study |
| <b>FROM:</b>           | Community Development Department  |

## **RECOMMENDATION / CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

Approve Resolution No. 11155 - Approving the Application for Grant Funds from the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program for a Sustainable Transit Connections to Health Services Planning and Feasibility Study

## **BACKGROUND / ISSUE**

The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) operates the bus service for the City of Folsom. Folsom Stage Line Routes 10, 20, and 30 currently serve the area north of Highway 50. There are currently no fixed bus routes serving the Folsom Plan Area.

In April of 2010, a Transit Master Plan was prepared for the Folsom Plan Area. The Transit Master Plan identifies proposed roadways to be used by future bus transit routes, along with potential locations for bus turnouts, pedestrian shelters, and bus transfer stations. The Transit Master Plan also identifies a “high capacity” bus route along Alder Creek Parkway that would link the residential areas with the major commercial areas in the Folsom Plan Area and the Hazel Avenue light rail station. According to the Transit Master Plan, the principal land use factors that promote transit ridership are density, diversity (land use mixture), and pedestrian friendly design that encourages walking. The Transit Master Plan anticipates that the transit system would be developed in phases as future development occurs within the Folsom Plan Area to support transit ridership.

SacRT operates light-rail transit (LRT) service in Sacramento County. LRT service is provided on the Gold Line from downtown Sacramento along the Folsom Boulevard/Highway 50 corridor to

the Historic Folsom light-rail station, with local stops at Hazel Avenue, Iron Point Road, Glenn Drive and Historic Folsom. SacRT intends to add a second track in section of the Gold Line route in order to operate a 15-minute service between Sunrise Station in Rancho Cordova and Historic Folsom Station in Folsom, rather than the existing 30-minute service. The construction of the second track is expected to begin in January 2024 and last through June 2024.

Over the past year, the Community Development Department has initiated a collaboration with the Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) to discuss various planning projects. These include the current General Plan and Folsom Plan Areas Specific Increased Residential Capacity Project, the Gold Line Double Tracking Project, and proposed and approved development projects in the Folsom Plan Area, such as the UC Davis and Dignity Health medical campuses. The objective of this collaboration is to pinpoint opportunities for enhancing sustainable transit connections in the city and to devise strategies for the execution of the Folsom Plan Area Transit Master Plan. The collaboration has led staff and SacRT to conclude that the successful execution of the Folsom Plan Area Transit Master Plan requires ongoing commitment and cooperation with SacRT and local partners, particularly our medical facility partners who stand to benefit significantly from the new transit service. With four major medical facilities (UC Davis, Dignity Health, Kaiser Permanente, and Sutter Health) planned, approved, or under construction in the city near the intersection of US Highway 50 and East Bidwell Street, planning for a transit route that connects these four new medical center campuses to sustainable transit connections, including Regional Transit's Gold Line, is important for Folsom residents, employees as well as those living outside the area.

Staff is now seeking the City Council's approval to apply for funds from the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Grant Program. These funds will be used to carry out a planning and feasibility study for transit connections to health services and other key locations in the city. The study aims to work with local health service partners and others to develop recommendations for the alignment and station locations; create station area plans; conduct extensive community outreach; and establish an implementation and funding strategy.

### **POLICY / RULE**

The California Department of Transportation requires that the governing body of the applicant endorse the application through a resolution and pledge the matching funds before the application is submitted.

### **ANALYSIS**

The proposed Sustainable Transit Connections to Health Services Planning and Feasibility Study, in partnership with the Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT), aims to proactively plan for sustainable transit connections that will support the planned future growth of the city. The goal is to integrate various transportation modes, enhance transit station connections, improve access to medical facilities, and provide easy access to regional transit services in Folsom and the vicinity. This initiative will increase accessibility to the regional transit system for all (including older adults and people with disabilities), reduce traffic congestion, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and improve community health.

The study is timely due to several factors. First, the enhancements to the Regional Transit's Gold Line will facilitate a 15-minute light rail service in our region by 2024. Second, the four new medical facilities we aim to collaborate with are still in the early stages of development and planning. This allows for seamless integration with other transport modes to create safe, effective, and convenient transit stop access, thereby promoting ridership. Lastly, Alder Creek Parkway is yet to be completed, providing an opportunity for efficient resource and space utilization by integrating the transit infrastructure into the final street design before construction. These factors offer a unique opportunity to plan transit connections and transit stops/stations early on, providing future sustainable regional transit access new medical facilities, jobs, and services.

This initiative will follow SacRT's successful collaboration with UC Davis and others in launching the Causeway Connection bus service in 2020 link, linking UC Davis and Sacramento, as well as the recent launch of the Elk Grove/UC Davis Medical Center express bus service in 2023. Additionally, the study will align with several current planning efforts, including, but not limited to the Folsom Light Rail Modernization Double Track Project, SACOG's Green Means Go Program, and the City's General Plan and Folsom Plan Areas Specific Increased Residential Capacity Project. It will also focus on connecting pedestrian and bike facilities under the city's Active Transportation Plan. The study will encompass technical analysis, traffic modeling, station area planning, public outreach, and implementation and funding strategies, with support from multiple stakeholders.

Adopting this resolution is consistent with the City of Folsom's General Plan Goal to support and maintain a comprehensive, safe, and integrated transit system that responds to the needs of all residents and allow frequent and convenient travel through the city and region and aligns with the objectives of the Sustainable Transportation Grant.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The estimated total cost of the comprehensive planning and feasibility transit connection study is \$250,808, and the City is requesting \$225,000 from the Caltrans sustainable transportation planning grant, which requires an 11.47 percent local match. The City would contribute its local match in the form of staff time including acting as project manager overseeing the consultant conducting the planning and feasibility transit connections study.

There is no impact on the General Fund if the grant award is accepted. The grant would be disbursed to the City on a reimbursement basis. Consultant costs would be expended from Fund 451 (Light Rail Impact Fee Fund) and repaid as reimbursement from Caltrans when received. In addition,

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The grant request and proposed Sustainable Transit Connections to Health Services Planning and Feasibility Study is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15262, which provides an exemption for feasibility and planning studies for future action.

**ATTACHMENT**

Resolution No. 11155 – A Resolution Approving the Application for Grant Funds from the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program for a Sustainable Transit Connections to Health Services Planning and Feasibility Study

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pam Johns", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pam Johns, Community Development Director

**RESOLUTION NO. 11155**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CALTRANS SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM FOR A SUSTAINABLE TRANSIT CONNECTIONS TO HEALTH SERVICES PLANNING AND FEASIBILITY STUDY**

**WHEREAS**, on October 5, 2023, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) released the FY 2024-25 Grant Application Guide/Call-for-applications; and

**WHEREAS**, up to \$29.5 million in state funds are available for transportation planning projects statewide with this FY 2024-2025 grant cycle; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Folsom proposes to apply for these funds to conduct a planning and feasibility study for sustainable transit connections that will support planned future growth of the city and increase access to health services, increase accessibility to the regional transit system, reduce traffic congestion, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and improve community health; and

**WHEREAS**, the total grant funding requested is \$225,000 with a total project budget of \$250,808 (\$225,000 plus \$25,808 local match in the form of staff time as project manager).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Folsom hereby:

1. Approves the filing of the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program.
2. Certifies that said applicant has, or will have available prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project.
3. Approves the 11.47% local grant matching funds in the in the form of staff time dedicated to project management overseeing the consultant conducting the study.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 9th day of January, 2024, by the following roll-call vote:

**AYES:** Councilmember(s):  
**NOES:** Councilmember(s):  
**ABSENT:** Councilmember(s):  
**ABSTAIN:** Councilmember(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael D. Kozlowski, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christa Freemantle, CITY CLERK

*This page is intentionally left blank  
to facilitate double-sided printing.*