



City Council Agenda Report

Meeting Date: August 27, 2024

Prepared By: Aida Fairman

Approved By: Gabriel Engeland

Subject: Adopt a Resolution for the Transportation Development Act (TDA) Funding Allocation to Hetch Hetchy Pathway Enhancements

COUNCIL PRIORITY AREA

- Business Communities
- Circulation Safety and Efficiency
- Environmental Sustainability
- Housing
- Neighborhood Safety Infrastructure
- General Government

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt resolution No. 2024 Amending the FY 2024-25 CIP budget increasing TDA Revenues by \$129,725 to fund the Intersection Access Barrier Removal Project (TS-01058); and to program \$129,725 in Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds for the Intersection Access Barrier Removal Project (TS-01058) to fund the construction of the Hetch Hetchy Pathway Enhancements and Access Improvement Project and find that this action is Exempt from Environmental Review Pursuant to Section 15301(c) of the State Guidelines Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City's TDA Allocation will fund construction of the Hetch Hetchy Pathway Enhancements and Access Improvements in the amount of \$129,725. This amount would cover the cost of construction and there would be no impact on the General Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The adoption of the resolution is categorically exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities), in that Section 15301(c) provides an exemption for operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing bicycle and pedestrian trails involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The adoption of the proposed resolution will facilitate funding for ordinary street maintenance, and none of the circumstances set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 applies.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

June 27, 2023

BACKGROUND

Article 3 of the Transportation Development Act (TDA), Public Utilities Code (PUC) Section 99200 et seq., authorizes the submission of claims to a regional transportation planning agency for the funding of projects exclusively for the benefit and/or use of pedestrians and bicyclists. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), as the regional transportation planning agency for the San Francisco Bay region, has adopted MTC Resolution No. 4108, Revised, entitled “Transportation Development Act, Article 3, Pedestrian/Bicycle Projects,” which delineates procedures and criteria for submission of requests for the allocation of “TDA Article 3” funding.

The Hetch Hetchy Pathway is a paved bicycle and pedestrian multi-use path that traverses a small portion of Los Altos city limits and provides a connection to the Los Altos-Palo Alto Bike Path and Arastradero Road. The trail is within the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) right-of-way and provides SFPUC and the City access for maintenance vehicles. The current path crossings at Estrellita Way and Los Altos Avenue do not meet current ADA requirements due to their age. The City would like to reconstruct these crossings to meet ADA requirements and to enhance this connector. This project provides the opportunity to add additional features at both crossings for bicycles, pedestrians, and drivers.

The Complete Streets Commission (CSC) discussed this project at their January 2022 meeting and received an array of potential alternatives for crossing enhancement features including signage, striping, bollards, and speed control measures. Proposed alternatives were based on precedent research done by Staff which included best practice pathway design based on the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines, as well as pathway design in neighboring cities. The CSC and the public provided comments on their preferences for the various features at each crossing location. Staff incorporated this feedback into the plan and returned the updated plan to the CSC in March of 2022. Staff have since presented the updated plans to SFPUC Project Review Committee and received positive feedback, then submitted updated plans and the permit application to SFPUC. Staff received a draft consent letter to install improvements. Final consent letter will be provided by the SFPUC when the project is bid out and awarded.

ANALYSIS

The City receives TDA funding each year, in an amount that averages roughly \$30,000 per year, with the option each year to either bank funds or program them to a project. After several years of banking, the City now has \$129,725 available.

DISCUSSION

Staff recommends programming this balance to the Hetch Hetchy Pathway Enhancements and Access Improvements project for planned project delivery in FY24-25.

ATTACHMENT

1. Resolution