



TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COMPLETE STREETS AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MEETING DATE: 04/11/24

ITEM NO.: 6.

DATE: April 5, 2024
TO: Complete Streets and Transportation Commission
FROM: Nicolle Burnham, Parks and Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Town of Los Gatos Highway 17 Bicycle/Pedestrian Overcrossing Project Construction Grant Funding Applications

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider a Motion in support of authorizing the Chair of the Complete Streets and Transportation Commission (CSTC) to sign a Letter of Support for the Highway 17 Bicycle/Pedestrian Overcrossing Project, to be included with the Town's grant applications for construction funding from the Federal/State Safe Streets For All (SS4A) (Attachment 2) and Active Transportation Program (ATP) (Attachment 1) transportation grant funding programs.

BACKGROUND:

The Highway 17 Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing Project is a high priority project in the Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (Plan) recommended by the CSTC and adopted by Council in 2020. As identified in the Plan, the project will improve bicycle and pedestrian mobility, encourage active transportation, close a gap in the Town's bicycle network, and enhance safety for all modes of travel on Blossom Hill Road between Roberts Road West and Roberts Road East. Blossom Hill Road is a high-volume transportation corridor and route to school for the Town.

The project is being led by the Town with significant funding support through project design from the 2016 Santa Clara Countywide Measure B Program and design oversight by Caltrans for the portion of the project within Caltrans' Highway 17 right of way.

After many public meetings and Commission and Town Council discussions and actions related to the project, on May 20, 2021, the Town Council authorized an agreement for consultant services with BKF for project design including preliminary engineering, environmental review, and final design. Since then, the project team has made significant progress on preliminary engineering and environmental review. Staff has continued to engage with project stakeholders

PREPARED BY: Nicolle Burnham
Director, Parks and Public Works

for additional input, including the Los Gatos Union School District, Safe Routes to School Program, Complete Streets and Transportation Commission, Arts and Culture Commission, and others.

The project is currently on track to complete preliminary engineering and obtain environmental clearance in Summer 2024, after which work on final design will commence. Final design is anticipated to be complete by late 2024/early 2025.

The total cost of the project through the completion of design is approximately \$3.9 million and is already fully funded with a combination of Santa Clara County Measure B, Transportation Development Act, and Town funds.

The current estimate of the total construction cost is \$25 million. The Town will need to obtain the construction funding prior to advertising the project for construction bids. The majority of the funding is anticipated to come from Federal and/or State grant programs.

Staff is planning to apply for the current cycles of the Active Transportation Program (ATP) and Safe Streets For All (SS4A) grant programs. Both programs are currently accepting applications, with applications due in May/June 2024. On February 20, 2024, the Town Council authorized an amendment to BKF's contract to provide grant writing support services to Town staff in connection with the ATP and SS4A applications.

In order to maximize the Town's competitiveness for the grants, staff is seeking letters of support from a variety of community organizations representing a wide cross-section of the community. Staff has requested letters of support from Caltrans, VTA, Santa Clara County Parks Department, Los Gatos Union School District, nearby Home & School Clubs, the Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department, and local Cycling Clubs.

Staff believes it would benefit the Town's grant applications to have a formal Letter of Support from the Complete Streets and Transportation Commission. As a public body, it would be appropriate for the Commission to consider this matter at an open meeting and consider a motion in support of the Letter. Draft letters of support for each grant program for the Commission's consideration are attached to this report.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No Fiscal Impact to the recommended action.

Attachments:

1. Draft ATP Letters of Support
2. Draft SS4A Letter of Support



April 11, 2024

California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for Active Transportation Grant Application
Town of Los Gatos, California**

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Town of Los Gatos Complete Streets and Transportation Commission (CSTC), I am writing to express our strong support for the Town's application for the Active Transportation Program Grant. As advisory to the Town Council in matters pertaining to current trends and experiences in enhancing all modes of travel, we recognize the critical importance of creating safe, equitable, and sustainable transportation options for our community.

The implementation of the grant within our town holds significant promise for enhancing the safety and well-being of our Town's residents. By addressing critical infrastructure needs, improving pedestrian and bicycle pathways, and implementing comprehensive safety measures, this initiative aligns closely with our commitment to meet the needs of all users, whether they walk, bike, or drive.

The CSTC conducted a public process to develop the Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan that was adopted by Town Council in September 2020. The Plan identifies the Highway 17 Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing Project as a top priority project. The project will improve bicycle and pedestrian mobility, encourage active transportation, close a gap in the Town's bicycle network, and enhance safety for all modes of travel on Blossom Hill Road between Roberts Road West and Roberts Road East. Blossom Hill Road is a high-volume transportation corridor and route to school for the Town.

The community has come together in its support with stakeholders from schools, residents, visitors, businesses, Town government, nonprofit organizations, and neighboring communities. An important priority is the underserved populations which will benefit as well, namely our elderly residents, disabled persons, low income residents, and people with limited English. Safer routes to schools, jobs, service providers, and shopping will serve all residents while reducing the environmental impacts associated with vehicle commutes.

The CSTC is eager to collaborate with the community of Los Gatos and other community partners to ensure the success of the grant application. We are committed to participating in planning, community outreach, and initiatives to support this important work.

We look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the success of this initiative and to the lasting benefits it will bring to our community.

Sincerely,

Ali Miano

Chairperson for the Complete Streets and Transportation Commission (CSTC)



April 11, 2024

Office of Policy Development, Strategic Planning, and Performance
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

**Subject: Support for SS4A Implementation Grant Application
Los Gatos, California**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Complete Streets and Transportation Commission (CSTC), I want to convey our firm support for Los Gatos's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant application. Our Commission advises Town Council on matters like enhancing travel modes, integrating transportation infrastructure with surrounding areas, reviewing grants, focusing on school transportation safety, and updating master plans. We see the SS4A grant as a key opportunity to boost the Town's safety and connectivity by upgrading infrastructure and implementing safety measures for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike.

We're particularly excited about the proposed Highway 17 Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing Project. Aimed at constructing a bridge over Highway 17, this project will provide a secure pathway for cyclists and pedestrians, improving access to community spots and easing current congestion. It exemplifies our dedication to creating a cohesive and green community.

The CSTC conducted a public process to develop the Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan that was adopted by Town Council in September 2020. The Plan identifies the Highway 17 Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing Project as a top priority project. The project will improve bicycle and pedestrian mobility, encourage active transportation, close a gap in the Town's bicycle network, and enhance safety for all modes of travel on Blossom Hill Road between Roberts Road West and Roberts Road East. Blossom Hill Road is a high-volume transportation corridor and route to school for the Town.

The CSTC looks forward to working alongside Los Gatos and partners to advance the SS4A grant application. We're ready to engage in planning and outreach efforts to support this crucial project. We believe in building a safer, integrated community that benefits everyone living in and visiting Los Gatos.

Town of Los Gatos, California
SS4A Application Letter of Support
April 11, 2024

Please consider this letter as our strong endorsement of Los Gatos's application for the SS4A grant. We're enthusiastic about contributing to this project's success and the enduring positive impact it will have on our community.

Sincerely,

Ali Miano
Chairperson of the Complete Streets and Transportation Commission (CSTC)