



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of March 22, 2023

AGENDA ITEM: 4-D

PREPARED BY: Sandy Ebersole, Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT:

Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards Grant

Enclosure: No

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

In response to the adoption of Streets & Highways Code 104.3, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is launching the Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards (RC:H2B) Pilot Program. \$149 million was established in the FY 22/23 State Budget to plan for and fund the conversion of key underutilized highways in the State into multi-modal corridors to reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure. These legacy impacts will be addressed through community-based transportation planning, design, demolition, and/or reconstruction of city streets, parks, or other infrastructure.

Goals of the program include:

- Restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation, or replacement of eligible transportation infrastructure facilities that create barriers to mobility, access, or economic development.
- Provide matching funding for potential federal grant funds.
- Advance health and equity outcomes for underserved communities by removing health, safety, and access barriers associated with transportation infrastructure within communities.
- Improve access to opportunity by improving travel options and reducing combined household transportation and housing costs for underserved communities.
- Create opportunities for implementation of affordable housing and furthering the advancement of fair housing.
- Prevent or minimize direct and indirect displacement effects from project implementation.
- Advance community-based or community-driven transportation planning.

RC:H2B Program Milestones

The following is the projected timeline for the RC:H2B Program:

- Draft Milestone Schedule Date and Tim
- Program Guidelines Workshop #4 April/May 2023
- Call for Projects Late Spring/Early Summer
- Application Workshops Summer 2023
- Project Award Notification Late 2023/Early 2024

For more information visit the [Caltrans Reconnecting Communities](#) website.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2022-23 Overall Work Program and Budget.