



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE

April 10, 2018

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

41 April 10, 2018

CELIA ZAVALA
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**TRANSPORTATION CORE SERVICE AREA
APPROVE AND REQUEST THE ALLOCATION OF GRANT FUNDS FOR
LOS NIETOS SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL – PHASE I,
HAWTHORNE/LENNOX GREEN LINE STATION COMMUNITY LINKAGES, AND
WEST CARSON COMMUNITY BIKEWAYS PROJECTS
IN THE UNINCORPORATED COUNTY COMMUNITIES OF
LOS NIETOS, LENNOX, AND WEST CARSON
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 2 AND 4)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

These actions are to approve the following three projects: Los Nietos Safe Routes to School – Phase I, Hawthorne/Lennox Green Line Station Community Linkages, and West Carson Community Bikeways projects in the unincorporated County communities of Los Nietos, Lennox, and West Carson, and authorize the Director of Public Works or his designee to request the allocation of grant funds for these projects.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the projects are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated in this Board letter, in the record of the projects or have been previously approved under a certified Environmental Impact Report.
2. Approve the Los Nietos Safe Routes to School – Phase I, Hawthorne/Lennox Green Line Station Community Linkages, and West Carson Community Bikeways projects and authorize the Director of Public Works or his designee to request the allocation of grant funds of \$576,000 from the California Transportation Commission to proceed with the design phase of the projects.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended actions is for the Board to approve the Los Nietos Safe Routes to School – Phase I, Hawthorne/Lennox Green Line Station Community Linkages, and West Carson Community Bikeways projects; find that the projects are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or have been previously approved under a certified Environmental Impact Report; and request the design phase allocation of grant funds from the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for these projects.

The Los Nietos Safe Routes to School project includes two phases. Phase I is being considered in this Board letter and we will return to the Board for Phase II at a later date. This project will enhance the overall safety of pedestrians, promote a walkable environment, and improve accessibility for area residents, especially students. The scope of work for Phase I includes modification of the existing traffic signal system, installation of countdown pedestrian heads and audible push buttons, sidewalk improvements, enhanced crosswalks, and upgraded curb ramps. The total project cost estimate for Phase I is \$1,800,000.

The Hawthorne/Lennox Green Line Station Community Linkages project will improve access for bicyclists to schools and parks, and provide interconnectivity within their communities. The scope of work includes installation of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, modification of existing traffic signal system, reconstruction of pavement, curbs and gutters, parkway tree planting, and installation of wayfinding signs. The total project cost estimate is \$3,100,000.

The West Carson Community Bikeways project will improve access for bicyclists to schools, parks, and hospitals and provide interconnectivity within their communities. The scope of work includes installation of bicycle facilities, modification of existing traffic signal system, and reconstruction of pavement, curbs and gutters. The total project cost estimate is \$700,000.

On October 21, 2015, Public Works was awarded a grant of \$4,432,000 from the Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 2 that includes Federal and State funding but administered through the California Department of Transportation for the Los Nietos Safe Routes to School – Phase I (\$1,601,000), Hawthorne/Lennox Green Line Station Community Linkages (\$2,406,000), and West Carson Community Bikeways projects (\$425,000). On October 20, 2016, Public Works received \$158,000 of the \$4,432,000 for the Project Approval and Environmental Document phase allocated as follows: \$40,000 for Los Nietos Safe Routes to School – Phase I, \$100,000 for Hawthorne/Lennox Green Line Station Community Linkages, and \$18,000 for West Carson Community Bikeways.

The CTC requires environmental clearances for these projects prior to requesting the allocation of \$576,000 in funds for the design phases. The \$576,000 for the design phases is allocated as follows: \$240,000 for Los Nietos Safe Routes to School – Phase I, \$280,000 for Hawthorne/Lennox Green Line Station Community Linkages, and \$56,000 for West Carson Community Bikeways. Upon the Board's approval of these projects, Public Works will prepare and file Notice of Exemptions with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and submit the Notice of Exemptions as the required environmental clearance documentation to the CTC.

After the design phase and jurisdictional reviews are complete, Public Works will return to the Board to request approval to accept construction funding from the CTC and to advertise for construction bids for the construction phase of the projects in accordance with ATP guidelines.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The County Strategic Plan directs the provision of Strategy III.3, Pursue Operational Effectiveness, Fiscal Responsibility, and Accountability and Objective III.3.2, Manage and Maximize County Assets. The recommended actions support ongoing efforts to manage and improve public infrastructure assets.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

The Los Nietos Safe Routes to School – Phase I and Hawthorne/Lennox Green Line Station Community Linkages projects will utilize Federal-aid funding under the ATP covered by existing County-State Agreement 78542. The West Carson Community Bikeways project will utilize State transportation grant funding under the ATP covered by existing County-State Agreement 77276. Under the ATP, Federal and State grant funds allocated to local agencies are used to finance a portion of the qualifying project cost.

The grant funds do not cover the full project costs. Local funds will be used to fund the remaining costs of the projects. These local funds are included in the Second and Fourth Supervisorial Districts' Transportation Improvement Programs in the Proposition C Local Return Fund and Road Fund Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budgets. Funding for the project's future costs will be requested through the annual budget process. See Enclosure 1 for the total project funding and grant fund amounts for the three projects.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

These ATP-funded projects require proof of environmental exemption/clearance by April 2018 prior to proceeding with the design phases. According to the ATP Guidelines in compliance with Section 21150 of the Public Resources Code, the California Transportation Commission will not allocate funds for a noninfrastructure project or plan, or for design, right of way, or construction of an infrastructure project prior to documentation of environmental clearance under CEQA.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The Los Nietos Safe Routes to School – Phase I project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Sections 15301(c) and 15303(e) of the CEQA Guidelines and Class 1(x) Subsections 4, 5, 14, and 16; and Class 3(b) of the Environmental Reporting Procedures and Guidelines previously adopted by the Board. These exemptions provide for modification of existing traffic signal system; installation of new traffic signal system; reconstruction of existing roadway pavement, curbs, gutters, and sidewalk; sidewalk construction; and construction of small accessory structures.

The roadway improvement portion of the Hawthorne/Lennox Green Line Station Community Linkages project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Sections 15301(c), 15303(e), 15304(h), and 15311(a) of the CEQA Guidelines and Class 1(x) Subsections 1, 4, 9, and 14; Class 3(b); Class 4(n); and Class 11(d) of the Environmental Reporting Procedures and

Guidelines previously adopted by the Board. These exemptions provide for sealing roadway pavement, modification of existing traffic signal system; parkway tree planting; reconstruction of existing roadway pavement, curbs, gutters, and sidewalk; construction of small accessory structures; creation of bicycle lanes on existing rights of way; and erection of informational or directional on-premise signs.

The bikeway portion of the Hawthorne/Lennox Green Line Station Community Linkages project was considered in the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (FPEIR) for the 2012 Bicycle Master Plan (BMP). The project will not have any environmental impacts. On February 28, 2012, Agenda Item 7, the Board certified that the FPEIR for the 2012 BMP is in compliance with CEQA and that it reviewed and considered the information presented within the FPEIR before it approved the BMP; found that the FPEIR reflected the independent judgment and analysis of the County; determined that the significant adverse effect of the projects included in the BMP have been reduced to an acceptable level as outlined in the findings of fact; adopted the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and made a finding pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 that the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is adequately designed to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures during the BMP implementation.

On March 13, 2012, the Board adopted the County 2012 BMP to replace the 1975 Master Plan of Bikeways. The Hawthorne/Lennox Green Line Station Community Linkages bikeway components, including installation of a Class II bicycle route on Lennox Boulevard between Hawthorne Boulevard and Osage Avenue; and Class III bicycle route on 104th Street between Buford Avenue and Prairie Avenue, Lennox Boulevard between Felton Avenue and Hawthorne Boulevard, Buford Avenue between 104th Street and 111th Street, Inglewood Avenue between Century Boulevard and 112th Street, and Freeman Avenue between Lennox Boulevard and 111th Street were considered in the FPEIR for the 2012 BMP.

A one-time fee of \$2,919 was paid on March 2, 2012, at the filing of the first Notice of Determination for the FPEIR certification. In accordance to Title 14, Section 753.5(e)(3) of the California Code of Regulations, only one fee is required when an existing certified Environmental Impact Report is used for multiple project approvals that would result in no additional effect to fish and wildlife.

The West Carson Community Bikeways project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Sections 15301(c) and 15304(h) of CEQA Guidelines; and Class 1(x) Subsections 4, 7, 14, and 22; and Class 4(n) of the Environmental Reporting Procedures and Guidelines previously adopted by the Board. These exemptions provide for modification of existing traffic signals; establish various limitations on the use of County streets, including parking restrictions; reconstruction of existing roadway pavement, curbs, and gutters; maintenance of existing roadway facilities; and creation of bicycle lanes on existing right of way.

Upon the Board's approval of the projects, Public Works will file Notices of Exemption and pay the required processing fee in the amount of \$75 for each notice.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

When each project is completed, it will have a positive impact by enhancing the overall safety of pedestrians and/or mobility of bicyclists in the Los Nietos, Lennox, and West Carson areas that will improve the quality of life for community residents.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Department of Public Works, Programs Development Division.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Pestrella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Pestrella" clearly distinguishable.

MARK PESTRELLA

Director

MP:JTW:di

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Office (Chia-Ann Yen)
County Counsel (Laura T. Jacobson)
Executive Office

ENCLOSURE 1

**TRANSPORTATION CORE SERVICE AREA
APPROVE AND REQUEST THE ALLOCATION OF GRANT FUNDS FOR
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	Project Funding					
Project	Supervisory District	Fund Budget	Project Cost Estimate	ATP		Local Fund
				Federal Grant	State Grant	
Los Nietos Safe Routes to School – Phase 1	4	Road and Proposition C Local Return	\$1,800,000	\$1,601,000		\$199,000
Hawthorne/Lennox Green Line Station Community Linkages	2	Proposition C Local Return	\$3,100,000	\$2,406,000		\$694,000
West Carson Community Bikeways	2	Proposition C Local Return	\$700,000		\$425,000	\$275,000