Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Richard J. Bruckner
Director

March 17, 2015

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

27 March 17, 2015

PATRICK OGAWA
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

Dear Supervisors:

AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF THE WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT TRANSIT ORIENTED DISTRICT SPECIFIC PLAN (SECOND SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT) (3-VOTES)

SUBJECT

Recommendation to authorize the Director of Regional Planning to accept and implement a grant award under the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) Transit Oriented Development Planning Grant Program to support the development of the West Athens-Westmont Transit Oriented District (TOD) Specific Plan.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Through the adoption of the attached resolution authorize the Director of Planning, or his designee, to accept grant funding of $471,000 from Metro for the purpose of developing the West Athens-Westmont TOD Specific Plan, and to execute all necessary documents to administer the grant.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommendation will enable the Department of Regional Planning to accept grant funding from Metro to fund the development of a TOD specific plan and related environmental review for the unincorporated community of West Athens-Westmont.

The Los Angeles County General Plan Update identifies the County's TODs as priority policy areas. To create vibrant and healthy TODs, the County envisions developing specific plans for all of the County's TODs that are located in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The West Athens-Westmont TOD Specific Plan will target the unincorporated communities within a half-mile radius from the Metro Green Line Vermont/Athens Station. Building off of the goals and policies outlined in the Los Angeles

County General Plan Update, the West Athens-Westmont TOD Specific Plan will promote mobility, public safety, community revitalization, and economic development. The TOD Specific Plan will provide an opportunity to make focused land use and zone changes, promote streamlined California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, and plan for capital improvements. This effort will play a major role in creating a sense of place, creating an overall safe and inviting area, and will reduce car trips by introducing more community-serving uses near transit and housing.

The preparation of the West Athens-Westmont TOD Specific Plan will be a collaborative effort between the Departments of Regional Planning, Public Works, Public Health, Parks and Recreation, the Arts Commission, and others. The project will also involve extensive public outreach and effective coordination with other jurisdictions and agencies, such as the cities of Los Angeles, Gardena, Inglewood and Hawthorne and the South Bay Cities Council of Governments.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Participation in Metro's TOD Planning Grant Program promotes the County's Strategic Plan goals of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1), Community Support and Responsiveness (Goal 2), and Integrated Service Delivery (Goal 3) by developing a specific plan for West Athens-Westmont that will effectively respond to economic, social, and environmental challenges, will be coordinated with concurrent County initiatives, and will support existing efforts and create new opportunities that promote healthy communities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Participation in Metro's TOD Planning Grant Program will not result in any cost to the County. The grant funds will be used to hire a consultant and to support personnel costs and operating expenses.

The Department of Regional Planning will include a $471,000 appropriation/revenue adjustment in the FY 2015-16 Final Changes Budget, and in future fiscal years as necessary.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

All documents required for the acceptance of the awarded grant will be subject to approval by County Counsel prior to execution by the Director of Regional Planning.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The acceptance of the grant is not a "project" for which review is required under CEQA. Section 15384(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines excludes from the definition of a "project" the

"creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment." The acceptance of the grant will allow the County to evaluate and prepare a specific plan for the West Athens-Westmont TOD, including any necessary environmental review pursuant to CEQA. The acceptance of the grant will not commit the County to the adoption of any plan, policy, or project, and will not result in any physical impact on the environment.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Participation in Metro's TOD Planning Grant Program will improve planning and services to the public by providing updated planning processes and promoting healthy communities.

Should you have any questions, please contact Connie Chung in the General Plan Development and Housing Section at cchung@planning.lacounty.gov or (213) 974-6417.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Bruckner
Director

RJB:MC:CC:LF:lf:ems

Attachment

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Arts Commission
Chief Executive Office
Parks and Recreation
Public Health
Public Works

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A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AUTHORIZING RECEIPT OF GRANT FUNDS UNDER THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the County of Los Angeles (County) is eligible to receive $471,000 under the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority Transit Oriented Development Planning Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds as follows:

1. The Department of Regional Planning submitted a proposal to obtain funding from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority Transit Oriented Development Planning Grant Program to develop a Transit Oriented District (TOD) Specific Plan for the unincorporated community of West Athens-Westmont.

2. The Los Angeles County General Plan Update identifies the County's TODs as priority policy areas. In order to create vibrant and healthy TODs, the County envisions developing specific plans for all of the County's TODs that are located in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

3. The West Athens-Westmont TOD Specific Plan will be the third of such proposed specific plans, and will target the unincorporated communities within a half-mile radius from the Metro Green Line Vermont/Athens Station.

4. The West Athens-Westmont TOD Specific Plan aims to encourage transit-oriented development, promote active transportation, promote healthy communities, reduce vehicles miles traveled, and streamline the environmental review process for future development projects.

5. Preparation of the West Athens-Westmont TOD Specific Plan will be a collaborative process between the Departments of Regional Planning, Public Works, Public Health, Parks and Recreation, Arts Commission, and others. The project will also involve extensive public outreach and effective coordination with other jurisdictions and agencies, such as the cities of Los Angeles, Gardena, Inglewood, and Hawthorne and the South Bay Cities Council of Governments.

6. Funds totaling $471,000, from Metro's Transit Oriented Development Planning Grant Program will be allocated to the County.

7. The Board of Supervisors must authorize the Department of Regional Planning to receive Metro's Transit Oriented Development Planning Grant Program funds.

8. In accordance with Section 15262 of the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, adoption of this resolution and acceptance of grant funds does not constitute a project and, therefore, is not subject to the requirements of CEQA.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. That the acceptance of the grant is consistent with the goals, policies, and programs of the Los Angeles County General Plan.

2. That the acceptance of the grant reflects actions that will help promote healthy communities in the unincorporated areas.

3. That receipt of Metro's Transit Oriented Development Planning Grant Program funds is approved and that this approval will not have a significant effect on the environment.

4. That the Director of Regional Planning or his designee is authorized to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, receipt of funds and payment requests, which may be necessary for the purposes of administering this grant.

The foregoing Resolution was on the 17th day of March, 2015, adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies and authorities for which said Board so acts.

Patrick Ogawa
Acting Executive Officer-Clerk of
Board of Supervisors

By: Carla Little
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MARK SALADINO
County Counsel

By Elaine Lemke
ELAINE LEMKE
Principal Deputy County Counsel