



Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



Amy J. Bodek, AICP
Director of Regional Planning

Dennis Slavin
Chief Deputy Director,
Regional Planning

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

22 June 25, 2019

June 25, 2019

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

CELIA ZAVALA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD FROM THE
CALTRANS SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
GRANT PROGRAM TO FUND THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SLAUSON STATION AREA TRANSIT ORIENTED COMMUNITIES SPECIFIC PLAN
(FIRST AND SECOND SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Recommendation to authorize the Director of the Department of Regional Planning (Department) to accept and implement a grant award under the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Sustainable Communities Grant Program (Grant Program) to support the development of the Los Angeles County Slauson Station Area Transit Oriented Communities Specific Plan (Specific Plan).

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the acceptance of the grant award is not a project pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.
2. Adopt the attached Resolution to accept grant funding of \$457,610 from the Grant Program and provide \$59,290 in required local match from the Department's budget for a total project amount of \$516,900, for the purpose of developing the Specific Plan.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Regional Planning, or designee, to execute all necessary documents to administer the grant.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommendation will enable the Department to accept the award from the Grant

Program to fund the development of a Specific Plan for the Slauson Station area in the unincorporated community of Florence-Firestone. The conditions of grant acceptance require a Local Resolution from the governing board authorizing the Department to enter into contract with Caltrans.

The Los Angeles County General Plan identifies the County's Transit Oriented Districts (TODs) as priority planning areas to promote vibrant and healthy communities around major transit stations. The Slauson Station is one of the TODs identified by the General Plan. The Specific Plan will target the area within a half-mile radius of the station. Building on the goals and policies outlined in the General Plan, the Specific Plan aims to encourage transit-oriented development, promote active transportation, reduce vehicles miles traveled, provide new housing opportunities, and promote healthy communities.

The preparation of the Specific Plan will be a collaborative effort with the neighboring cities of Los Angeles, Huntington Park and Vernon as well as the departments of Regional Planning, Public Works, Public Health, and Parks and Recreation. The project will also involve coordination with other agencies, including Caltrans and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Participation in the Grant Program supports the following Strategic Plan goals:

- Goal I. Make Investments that Transform Lives
- Goal II. Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities

The Specific Plan will respond to economic, social, and environmental challenges by clustering development around the Slauson rail station, increasing access to transit, and improving connectivity to alternate modes of travel. The project will be coordinated with other County directives and initiatives that promote healthy communities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The total cost for the preparation of the Specific Plan is estimated to be \$516,900 and will be offset with \$457,610 of grant funding and a required 11% match of \$59,290 of net county cost. The funds will be used to hire a consultant and to support personnel costs and operating expenses.

Sufficient funding for the work will be included in the supplemental budget request for Fiscal Year 2019-20 and additional funding will be included 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 the Department.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The acceptance of the grant is not a project for which review is required under CEQA. Section 15378(b)(4) of CEQA states that a "Project" does not include 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 fund the Specific Plan. The acceptance of the grant

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will not commit the County to the adoption of any plan, policy, or project. An appropriate environmental document will be prepared for the project as required for the adoption of the plan.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Participation in the 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 Mi Kim, Section Head, Community Studies East Section at mkim@planning.lacounty.gov or (213) 974-6425.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Bodek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Amy J. Bodek, AICP

Director

AJB:DS:MK:LF:ems

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

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
AUTHORIZING RECEIPT OF GRANT FUNDS UNDER THE
CALTRANS SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the County of Los Angeles (County) is eligible to receive State funding in the amount of \$457,610 for the Los Angeles County Slauson Sustainable Communities Area Specific Plan from the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Sustainable Communities Grant Program (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 Grant Program to develop a Transit Oriented District (TOD) specific plan for the Slauson Station area in the unincorporated community of Florence-Firestone.
2. The County General Plan identifies the County's TODs as being areas within a one-half-mile radius from a major transit stop. The Slauson Station TOD is located on the Blue Line in Florence-Firestone. In order to create vibrant and healthy TODs, the County has been developing TOD specific plans in the unincorporated areas of the County.
3. The proposed Slauson Station Area Transit Oriented Community Specific Plan (Specific Plan) will be the fourth of such proposed specific plans and will target the one-half-mile radius around the Blue Line Slauson Station.
4. The Specific Plan aims to encourage transit-oriented development, promote active transportation, reduce vehicle miles traveled, provide new housing opportunities, and promote healthy communities.
5. The preparation of the Specific Plan will be a collaborative effort with neighboring incorporated cities of Los Angeles, Huntington Park and Vernon as well as County departments of Regional Planning, Public Works, Public Health, and Parks and Recreation. The project will also involve extensive public outreach and coordination with other agencies including Caltrans and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.
6. Funds totaling \$457,610, from the Grant Program will be allocated to the County. The Department of Regional Planning has anticipated allocating discretionary funds to meet the local match requirement in the amount of \$59,290, for a total project cost of \$516,900.
7. The Board of Supervisors must authorize the Department of Regional Planning to enter into an agreement or contract with Caltrans to receive the Grant Program funds.

8. In accordance with Section 15378(b)(4) 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 receipt of the Grant Program is not a project under CEQA.
2. That the acceptance of the grant is approved as it is consistent with the goals, policies, and programs of the County General Plan.
3. That the acceptance of the grant will help promote transit-oriented communities in unincorporated areas.
4. That the Director of the Department of Regional Planning or her designee is authorized to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, contracts, amendments, receipt of funds and payment requests, which may be necessary for the purposes of administering this grant.

The foregoing Resolution was on the 25th day of JUNE, 2019, 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.



Celia Zavala

Celia Zavala
Executive Officer-Clerk of
the Board of Supervisors of the County of
Los Angeles

By: *Tanya Ruiz*
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MARY WICKHAM
County Counsel

By *Elaine Lemke*

ELAINE LEMKE
Assistant County Counsel