




September 7, 2017

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee
From: Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 
Subject: Grant Award for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program

Overview

On July 25, 2017, the California Office of Traffic Safety awarded the Orange County Transportation Authority \$75,000 in competitive funds to develop and implement the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program, which is intended to raise public awareness of safe bicycling and pedestrian practices, and reduce fatalities involving pedestrians and bicyclists. An authorizing resolution to accept the grant award and enter into grant-related agreements is presented for adoption as required by the grant program.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer or designee to accept the grant award and execute grant-related agreements with the California Office of Traffic Safety to develop and implement the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program.

Background

The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) was created in 1967 to provide the State of California with the authority needed to implement the requirements of the National Transportation Safety Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-564). To help fulfill its mission, OTS makes available grants to local and state public agencies for programs that help them enforce traffic laws, educate the public in traffic safety, and provide varied and effective means of reducing fatalities, injuries, and economic losses from collisions. On December 5, 2016, OTS issued a statewide competitive call for projects, which made available approximately \$8.7 million in federal funding for pedestrian and bicycle safety. In response to this opportunity, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) submitted a proposal to OTS on January 27, 2017, which included a request for \$100,000 to develop and implement bicycle education safety classes, and distribution of bicycle and pedestrian safety equipment, such as bicycle helmets and safety lights.

Discussion

On July 25, 2017, OTS awarded OCTA \$75,000 to develop and implement the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program (Program) to raise public awareness of safe bicycling and pedestrian practices, and reduce fatalities involving pedestrians and bicyclists. An authorizing resolution to accept the grant award and enter into grant-related agreements is presented for adoption, as required by the grant program. Due to the reduced grant award amount, the number of bicycle safety education classes has been reduced from ten classes to seven classes, and the total number of bicycle and pedestrian distribution items has been reduced from 8,400 items to 6,500 items, which includes 300 bicycle helmets, 5,500 arm band lights, and 700 bicycle lights. The distribution of the lights and reflectorized items will serve to improve safety for active transportation users, and promote the bicycle education safety classes.

The Program will build upon OCTA's prior successful efforts to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, including the Three Feet for Passing Law, the (B) right Visibility Campaign, the Brake the Cycle Campaign, and the Active Transportation Safety videos funded by OTS in fiscal year 2016-17. The OTS grant award will fully fund the Program and does not require a local match contribution or cost sharing arrangement. The Program will take approximately 12 months to complete.

OCTA Board of Directors Resolution No. 2017-072 is presented for consideration (Attachment A). OCTA has similar authorizing resolutions on file with OTS and other grant agencies, including the Federal Transit Administration and the State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Summary

OTS awarded OCTA \$75,000 to develop and implement the Program to raise public awareness of safe bicycling and pedestrian practices, and reduce fatalities involving pedestrians and bicyclists. An authorizing resolution to accept the grant award and enter into grant-related agreements with the OTS is presented for adoption as required by the grant program.

Attachment

- A. Resolution 2017-072 of the Orange County Transportation Authority,
2018 California Office of Traffic Safety Grant Program Authorization

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