



Agenda Item #: \_\_\_\_\_

# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Tell and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** David N. Carmany, City Manager

**FROM:** Richard Thompson, Director of Community Development  
Nhung Madrid, Management Analyst  
Jack Rydell, Traffic Engineer

**DATE:** March 20, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Resolution No. 6344 Authorizing the City of Manhattan Beach to Submit a Community Based Transportation Planning Grant Application and to Execute All Required Documents for the Valley Drive/Ardmore Avenue Corridor Plan and Allocation of Funds

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### RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 6344, authorizing the submission of a Community Based Transportation Planning Grant application for the Valley Drive/Ardmore Avenue Corridor Plan; and
2. Authorize allocation not to exceed \$17,500 from the CIP Fund.

### FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There is a 10 percent local match for this grant. The estimated total project cost is \$175,000, resulting in a City-match of \$17,500 from the CIP Fund if the grant is awarded.

### BACKGROUND:

Healthways/Blue Zones Vitality City initiative is a community-wide, well-being improvement program to create healthier, happier, and more productive citizens using evidence-based environmental and policy changes to motivate residents to adopt and maintain healthier lifestyles.

As part of Vitality City's engagement with the Cities of Hermosa, Redondo, and Manhattan Beach, a Livability Plan was developed for the three Cities to provide a general assessment of existing conditions and provides specific recommendations for improving policy and the built form to be more supportive of livability. This Plan, which was adopted by City Council on November 15, 2011 includes input from the City Traffic Engineer and City staff, and outlines recommended policies and actions for implementation centered on adoption of livability, infrastructure and education policies to create and sustain a more livable environment in Manhattan Beach and the South Bay.

With the adoption of the Livability Plan, the City is partaking in actions, programs and events that promote healthy lifestyle changes as well as adopting policies regarding livability, building, creating, and replacing the City's infrastructure. As stated in these policies, the City is encouraged to:

- Revise appropriate policies and plans to include "Complete Streets" policies and design guidelines for livable streets
- Develop and adopt city and regional pedestrian plans
- Direct staff to pursue funding in 2012 to begin the planning process for 2013
- Identify locations and plans to install mini-circles
- Work with the City of Hermosa Beach to establish a committee to plan how to restripe Valley Drive/Ardmore Avenue, converting each street to a one way street with bike lanes on the street

All of these policies in the Livability Plan support the evaluation of the Valley Drive/Ardmore Avenue Corridor Plan as prioritized by City Council through the Vitality City initiative. This plan includes the evaluation of the realignment of Valley Drive and Ardmore Avenue at Live Oak Park and the Joslyn Center, the relocation of parking spaces along Valley Drive from the east side of the street to the west side of the street, and the feasibility of installing a modern roundabout at the intersection of Valley Drive/Ardmore Avenue/15<sup>th</sup> Street. Staff has identified the scope of work for this corridor plan, and is actively seeking grant funding for this plan.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Community Based Transportation Planning Grant is a program administered by Caltrans that funds coordinated transportation and land use planning to promote public engagement, livable communities, and a sustainable transportation system that includes mobility, access, and safety. Based on our knowledge of this grant program and information provided by Caltrans on recently funded projects in other public agencies, we believe that this program is an appropriate avenue to pursue to fund the study necessary to accomplish the work plan item identified above.

The Valley Drive/Ardmore Avenue Corridor Plan will provide a conceptual multi-modal planning foundation for the City's primary recreational north-south street corridor. This corridor is heavily utilized by joggers, walkers and bicyclists. It provides a variety of attractions and destinations such as the civic center, library, post office, downtown area, Live Oak Park, the weekly Farmers Market and several elementary schools. Many special events are also staged along the corridor, such as art shows, food and beverage events and various parades. This plan will be used to evaluate how different complete street features can be implemented to provide a roadway facility that best meets the needs of all users as well as continue to realize the ultimate vision for the community. The City intends to gather public input through interactive community workshops which will be the driving factor of the planning process. The City of Manhattan Beach's Valley Drive/Ardmore Avenue Corridor Plan will contain conceptual design only. It is the City's intent that once this plan is complete, it will lead to implementation and development as funding sources are identified.

If the grant application is successful, City Staff with the assistance of a consulting firm will perform this work. The City has not yet selected a consulting firm and the proper procurement procedures will be used through a competitive RFP process. The primary project objectives for the grant application will include the following:

- Identify how to best implement bicycle facilities and crossings along this corridor consistent with the general guidelines contained in the recently adopted South Bay Bicycle Master Plan.
- Identify how to improve pedestrian mobility and safety through sidewalk construction and widening, intersection improvements, non-intersection crossing improvements and modifications to the greenbelt pathway.
- Evaluate modifying Valley Drive and Ardmore Avenue to a one-way street couplet operation.
- Evaluate modifying Valley Drive/Ardmore Avenue at 15<sup>th</sup> Street from traffic signal control to a modern roundabout.
- Evaluate modifications to existing parking facilities along Valley Drive and Ardmore Avenue to better accommodate pedestrian and bicycle mobility, as well as enhance access to the Joslyn Senior Center. Modifications will include, but not be limited to relocating the existing parking on the east side of Valley Drive north of 15<sup>th</sup> Street to the west side.
- Installation of pedestrian-scale street lighting.
- Installation of street furniture and other design features.
- Application of “green street” concepts, such as storm water planter boxes and porous pavement where possible.
- Conceptual designs for underground utilities.
- Conceptual designs to improve drainage conveyance.

As part of the application process, Caltrans requires that an adopted resolution authorizing submittal of the application and delegating authority for entering into a funding agreement with Caltrans to City Staff be included. The attached resolution authorizes the City Manager, or his designee, to submit an application on behalf of the City for the Valley Drive/Ardmore Avenue Corridor Project and also authorizes the City Manager, or his designee, the authority to execute and submit on behalf of the City all documents, including but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, annual reports, expenditure reports and payment requests, which may be necessary for the administration of the Grant.

Attachments: A. Resolution No. 6344

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RESOLUTION NO. 6344

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
MANHATTAN BEACH APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE  
SUBMITTAL OF A COMMUNITY BASED TRANSPORTATION  
PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (“Caltrans”) has requested applications for the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Community Based Transportation Planning Grant Program, which funds coordinated transportation and land use planning that promotes public engagement, livable communities, and a sustainable transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the City of Manhattan Beach (“City”) is eligible to receive Federal and/or State funding from Caltrans for certain transportation planning activities; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to apply for a Community Based Transportation Planning Grant for the Valley Drive/Ardmore Avenue Corridor Project; and

WHEREAS, a Fund Transfer Agreement must be executed with Caltrans before such funds can be claimed.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct.

Section 2. The City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager, or his designee, to submit an application on behalf of the City for the Caltrans Community Based Transportation Planning Grant Program for the Valley Drive/Ardmore Avenue Corridor Project.

Section 3. The City Council also authorizes and delegates to the City Manager, or his designee, the authority to execute and submit on behalf of the City all documents, including but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, annual reports, expenditure reports, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the administration of the Grant. This authorization is effective for five (5) years from the date of adoption of this Resolution.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Section 5. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 20th day of March, 2012.

Ayes:  
Noes:  
Absent:  
Abstain:

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NICHOLAS W. TELL, JR.  
Mayor, City of Manhattan Beach

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SEAL)  
LIZA TAMURA  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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ROXANNE M. DIAZ  
City Attorney