

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

April 13, 2015

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

FROM: Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG Executive Director

SUBJECT: Hermosa Beach Request for SBHP Funding for PCH PAED

BACKGROUND

The City of Hermosa Beach City Council and staff have been working for several years with their community to define a model improvement project for Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and Aviation Boulevard. PCH is a state highway and Aviation Boulevard is a city street. The initial design concepts include model elements that anticipate the new Complete Streets philosophy of highway improvements adopted by Caltrans.

In 2012, the SBCCOG Board of Directors committed to provide the required minimum local match from the South Bay Highway Program for two 2013 Metro Call for Projects project applications that included operational improvements on PCH and Aviation. Metro did not approve the project applications in part because the project scopes exceeded the maximum available funding in the categories for which the city applied. As a result, the city split the project into two corridors. Recognizing that the PCH corridor scope will greatly exceed the funding available in Metro's Call for Projects, the city applied for Aviation Boulevard funding in the 2015 Call for Projects. The SBCCOG again committed to provide the minimum-required local match for the Aviation corridor from Measure R SBHP funds.

Because PCH is a state highway, projects are subject to the Caltrans project development process which includes a Project Study Report (PSR), a Project Approval / Environmental Document (PAED), final design, right-of-way, and construction. Because a PSR was prepared in connection with the previous Call for Projects application, the City and Caltrans are requesting SBHP funding to prepare the PAED.

The PAED scope of work includes tasks to:

- identify a range of project alternatives and implementation phase options with cost estimates;
- environmentally clear the preferred project alternative and related phases;
- identify funding sources that could be used for the various elements or phases of the project; and
- allow the SBCCOG to determine which elements of the project could be eligible for design and construction funding from the Measure R South Bay Highway Program.

Design elements to be considered in the PAED project alternatives may include roundabouts instead of traditional signalized intersections, widened sidewalks with undergrounding of utilities, landscaped center medians for improved safety, ADA-required intersection improvements, transit improvements, bikeways, and signage improvements.

The PCH project corridor initially is envisioned to be contained within the Hermosa Beach city limits between Artesia Boulevard and Anita Street. However, the corridor that would be defined in the PAED by Hermosa Beach and Caltrans could include border areas within Manhattan Beach on the north and/or Redondo Beach on the south to allow consideration of logical termini designs that will be developed as the project is defined and environmentally cleared in the PAED. The city managers from Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach have been consulted and understand that the study might include some areas in their city if it is determined to be necessary.

Hermosa Beach staff is requesting that its City Council approve designation of the City as lead agency for the PCH Corridor PAED. The City would contract with Caltrans to manage the study. Caltrans has estimated the PAED will take 24 months to complete.

The Hermosa Beach City Council is requesting the SBCCOG to allocate up to \$3 million in SBHP funds for the PAED phase of the PCH Corridor Project development process. The study will cost between \$2.5 million and \$3 million depending on the corridor definition and any supplemental public process needed outside of the Hermosa Beach City boundaries. In addition to \$2.5 million baseline cost of the study, a project contingency budget includes up to \$150,000 each for the cities of Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach to provide support to the study, if necessary, and \$200,000 that will be retained by the SBCCOG to fund scope change contingencies. Staff is recommending that the base project be approved for \$2.5 million with \$500,000 being approved, but retained by the SBCCOG as a contingency. With the contingency funds, the total allocation would not exceed \$3 million for the PCH PAED.

Consistent with SBCCOG Board policy, SBCCOG staff would recommend Steering Committee action be contingent on Hermosa Beach City Council submitting a letter to the SBCCOG Board of Directors making the funding request, agreeing to be the lead agency for the PAED project and including a statement that both Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach are aware of and agree to support this study if required. This letter would have to be received prior to consideration of the request by the SBCCOG Board of Directors.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the Hermosa Beach request for SBHP funding not to exceed \$3 million, of which \$200,000 will be retained as contingency, for the PCH PAED contingent on a letter from the Hermosa Beach City Council being received by the SBCCOG Board of Directors that includes the funding request, commits the city to serve as lead agency for the PAED phase of the project and includes a statement that both Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach are aware of and agree to provide technical support of this study, if required.