



Staff Report

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FILING OF THE TRANSPORTATION FUND FOR CLEAN AIR GRANT APPLICATION FOR RALSTON AVENUE AND SOUTH ROAD ROUNDABOUT PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

Staff is seeking approval from City Council to apply for a Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) 2007 grant in the amount of \$500,000 to fund the installation of a possible roundabout at Ralston Avenue and South Road. The TFCA grant is administered by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the application is due by June 29, 2007. The grants will be awarded in September 2007.

Public Works will not proceed with any design work on this project until Council has had the opportunity to discuss and provide direction.

Background

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) has made funds available through the Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) to reduce motor vehicle emissions in the Bay Area. TFCA revenues are generated through a \$4 surcharge on motor vehicle registrations within the Air District's jurisdiction. The Air District's objectives for the TFCA program are to fund the most cost-effective projects that reduce motor vehicle emissions, and to support the implementation of the transportation control measures and mobile source measures in the Bay Area. Staff is seeking Council's approval to only apply for funding for the possible design and construction of a roundabout at Ralston Avenue and South Road.

Discussion

BAAQMD has announced that TFCA funds are available for the entire nine Bay Area counties. Eligible grant recipients will be responsible for the implementation of the project and must have the authority and capability to complete the project. An eligible project must meet the following criteria to be considered for funding:

- Reduce motor vehicle emissions through implementation and maintenance of local arterial traffic management, including, but not limited to, signal timing, transit signal pre-emption, bus stop relocation, etc.

- Be ready for implementation. A project will only be considered for funding if it will commence (e.g., begin installation, award a construction contract, take delivery of the product, etc.) in calendar year 2008 or sooner.
- Have the funding necessary to complete the project available so that the project meets the implementation and completion criteria.

Modern roundabouts are a form of intersection traffic control that have become increasingly common around the world and are slowly being implemented in the country. The main difference between modern roundabouts and other traffic control systems is the use of its curved feature for controlling design speed. Modern roundabouts achieve a lower design speed by curving the approaches to the roundabout to promote low entry speeds and using a roundabout diameter that limits circulating speeds in the intersection. Unlike a stop controlled intersection, a roundabout can reduce intersection delays and queues, improve overall traffic flow, and reduce vehicle emissions. Numerous independent studies indicate that modern roundabouts are generally safer than other methods of intersection traffic control when compared to stop signs or traffic signals.

In 2003, the City received a Traffic Engineering Technical Assistance Program (TETAP) grant to prepare a feasibility study for modern roundabout as potential replacement of the existing stop controlled intersection at Ralston Avenue and South Road. Ralston Avenue is a major arterial roadway that carries roughly 25,000 vehicles per day. Side street traffic from South Road is moderate at peak periods of the day. During these times, left turning traffic leaving the side street finds it difficult to exit because of limited gaps in the Ralston traffic stream.

The installation of a roundabout is proposed at this location. Staff is working on the conceptual design for this project and will present the details to the Council for review prior to the actual project design or execution of the funding agreement with the Air Quality Management District. In order to be eligible for this TFCA grant cycle, the application must be submitted by June 29, 2007. Staff is seeking Council's approval to file the funding application for this project.

The estimated construction cost for this project is \$650,000. The TFCA grant requires the project construction be awarded in the 2008 calendar year, with at least 10% of the construction cost coming from a local match. Staff is currently negotiating with the developer at 1000 South Road (21-unit condominium development) for a \$150,000 developer's fee for the construction of this roundabout.

General Plan/Vision Statement

No impact.

Fiscal Impact

The TFCA grant fund can be used as a part for installing the roundabout at Ralston Avenue and South Road.

Public Contact

The publication and posting of the City Council agenda.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Director of Public Works to submit an application for the TFCA grant in the amount of \$500,000.

Alternatives

1. Take no action.
2. Refer back to staff for further information.
3. Deny approval.

Attachments

- A. Resolution

Respectfully submitted,

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Director of Public Works

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City Manager

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RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT APPROVING
THE FILING OF THE TRANSPORTATION FUND FOR CLEAN AIR GRANT
APPLICATION FOR RALSTON AVENUE AND SOUTH ROAD ROUNDABOUT
PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000**

WHEREAS, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) has made funds available through the Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) to reduce motor vehicle emissions in the Bay Area; and,

WHEREAS, the Air District’s TFCA objective is to fund the most cost-effective projects that reduce motor vehicle emissions, and to support the implementation of the transportation control measures and mobile source measures in the Bay Area; and,

WHEREAS, staff is seeking approval from City Council to apply for a Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) 2007 grant in the amount of \$500,000 to fund the installation of a roundabout at Ralston Avenue and South Road; and,

WHEREAS, the estimated construction cost for this roundabout is \$650,000; and

WHEREAS, matching funds for the TFCA grant will come from developer’s fees or Measure A for the design and construction of this roundabout; and,

WHEREAS, staff is also seeking approval from City Council to match the remaining construction cost of \$150,000 with the developer’s fee to be received from the development at 1000 South Road.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Belmont does authorize the Director of Public Works to sign and submit an application for the Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) grant in the amount of \$500,000, and to match the remaining cost of \$150,000 with the developer’s fees or Measure A Funds.

* * * * *

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Belmont at a regular meeting thereof held on June 26, 2007 by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

NOES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSTAIN, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSENT, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

CLERK of the City of Belmont

APPROVED:

MAYOR of the City of Belmont