



DATE ISSUED: February 20, 2018

ATTENTION: Downtown Community Planning Council  
Meeting of February 21, 2018

SUBJECT: Consideration of Support for Grant Applications for the Transnet Cycle 4  
Smart Growth Incentive Program and Active Transportation Grant  
Program – Downtown Community Planning Area

STAFF CONTACT: Brad Richter, Vice President, Planning

REQUESTED ACTION: That the Downtown Community Planning Council (DCPC) support the submission of six grant applications for the TransNet Cycle 4 Smart Growth Incentive Program (SGIP) and Active Transportation Grant Program (ATGP) from the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and provide support letters for each application.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS: The City Council (“Council”) will consider their approval of the submittal of City of San Diego (“City”) applications on February 27, including the six projects listed in this report.

BACKGROUND

Civic San Diego has participated as a co-applicant with the City in previous SANDAG Call for Grant Proposals as listed in Attachment A. These grants have helped CivicSD complete important planning studies and complete needed public infrastructure in the Downtown area.

DISCUSSION

SANDAG has requested applications under the 2018 TransNet Cycle 4 Call for Grants for both the SGIP and ATGP, including grants for both planning and capital projects. The objective of the grant programs is to foster studies and projects that encourage and facilitate Smart Growth and Active Transportation principles, specifically high-density infill development in transit rich areas of the County of San Diego. Many of the older urban neighborhoods are well positioned for these grants, being that they are within identified Smart Growth communities along the various transit corridors within the City. The grant applications are due March 15, 2018, with staff recommendations anticipated in July and grants awarded by the end of the year. For the current cycle of funding, the following amounts are available:

Grant	SGIP	ATGP
Planning	\$5.4 million (M)	\$0.9M
Capital	\$21.6M	\$2.7M

CivicSD has once again coordinated with City staff in order to identify potential project applications for the current grant cycle. The following are the six projects that CivicSD staff is proposing to submit for in coordination with the City of San Diego, and which CivicSD would manage and oversee contracting and construction for (where applicable):

## **SMART GROWTH INCENTIVE PROGRAM (SGIP)**

### **Planning**

St. Joseph's Park General Development Plan – Grant funds will be used to prepare the General Development Plan for St. Joseph's Park in Downtown San Diego. St. Joseph's Park is listed in the Downtown Community Plan as a 1.4-acre park on a full block bounded by Ash and Beech streets, Third and Fourth avenues. The Downtown Community Plan (DCP) envisions the park to contain children's play areas, flexible spaces, with potential areas for active recreation serving the Civic/Core and Cortez neighborhoods which are anticipated to see significant growth over the coming years. This park helps develop the goals of the DCP by adding to the comprehensive open space system that provides a diverse range of outdoor opportunities for residents, workers, and visitors, and providing public open space within walking distance of all residents and employees. The City currently owns 50% of the block, but funds are proposed in the FY19 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget to commence due diligence and property negotiations for acquisition of the remainder of the block. Future CIP funding would be required for acquisition of the remainder of the block.

Grant Request: \$165,000; Matching Funds: \$135,000 from the Downtown Floor Area Ratio (FAR) Bonus Payment Fund.

E Street Greenway Master Plan – Grant funds will be used to prepare a master plan for the E Street Greenway identified in the Downtown San Diego Mobility Plan. Greenways are widened, enhanced sidewalks that serve as linear parks providing needed open space in Downtown, a dense urban environment. Greenways designate specific enhanced pedestrian improvements, including but not limited to, widened sidewalks, corner bulb-outs that reduce pedestrian crossing distances, and linear park promenades. E Street is one of six streets that will form a network of greenways that provides a natural respite for Downtown residents, employees and visitors. Similar to the completed 14<sup>th</sup> Street Greenway Master Plan, the plan will inform future designs of individual blocks that will be constructed by CivicSD or new developments.

Grant Request: \$110,000; Matching funds: \$90,000 from the Downtown FAR Bonus Payment Fund.

### **Capital**

East Village Green Park Phase I Improvements- Grant funds would be utilized to supplement the construction costs for the Phase I improvements for this community park. EVG is a proposed 4.1-acre multi-block park bounded by F, G, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> streets in the East Village neighborhood of the Downtown Community Plan (DCP) area ("Downtown"). The Phase I construction is anticipated to start in early 2019 with completion in late 2020/early 2021.

Total grant request: \$2.5M; Matching funds: \$2.1M in CIP budget (note: the total project cost is \$35M, but the City only needs to match 45% under grant scoring so it lists the minimum funds to secure the highest scoring).

Free Ride Everywhere Downtown Fleet Expansion – Grant funds would be utilized to purchase 10 electric vehicles for the Free Ride Everywhere Downtown (FRED), the on-demand shuttle system launched in 2016 that features five-passenger, all-electric vehicles designed to provide short commutes within Downtown’s eight neighborhoods. In order to keep up with increasing ridership demand, CivicSD is seeking \$300,000 for the purchase of ten vehicles which will increase the fleet size from 20 to 30 vehicles and infrastructure upgrades to manage the increased fleet size. It is projected that the increased fleet will be able to accommodate over 300,000 riders per which is double the current annual ridership and the Downtown Community Parking District is anticipating allocating \$1.2 million the FY19 Budget for the continued expansion and operation of FRED.

Grant Request: \$300,000; Matching funds: \$ 250,000 from the Downtown Community Parking District Budget

Downtown Cycleway Improvements – the City’s Transportation and Stormwater Department is submitting a grant to supplement funding for installation of the Downtown Cycleway improvements consistent with the Downtown San Diego Mobility Plan. While CivicSD will not be managing the project, staff is recommending that the DCPC provide a letter of support for the grant application.

Grant Request: \$2.5M; Matching funds: \$2.5M from the City’s CIP Budget

## **ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM GRANTS (ATPG)**

### **Capital**

Downtown Wayfinding Signage (Cycleway Network) - Grant funds would be utilized to update and add to the comprehensive wayfinding signage program completed within Downtown in summer 2016 to promote the use of the new Downtown Cycleway network being installed by the City by 2019. The proposed Project will add cycleway information within the existing wayfinding signage program as well as provide new signage to help cyclists navigate and locate the newly adopted cycleways to key destination points throughout Downtown. It will improve the navigation, wayfinding, and transportation for cyclists and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by providing the necessary infrastructure to promote more cycling. It is anticipated that the Downtown Community Parking District will allocate \$180,000 towards matching funds in the FY19 Budget for the addition of this wayfinding signage.

Grant Request: \$220,000 Matching Funds: \$180,000 from Downtown Community Parking District.

Matching Funds

The FAR Bonus Payment Program was established in 2007 to allow developments to increase their respective densities by purchasing additional square footage based on a fixed cost (currently \$18.15/square foot). The funds collected are placed in a special fund to help finance public parks and enhanced public right-of-way infrastructure, such as green streets. CivicSD has utilized these funds for matching funds in past grant applications involving the East Village Green GDP, the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Master Plan, the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Greenway Demonstration Block, a second block of the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Greenway with a State of California Urban Greening Grant, and construction documents for the Children’s Park Enhancement Project. The following lists the FAR Bonus Payment Fund Balance:

Amount Collected to Date	\$3,527,667
Previously Authorized Expenditures	\$1,490,000
Current Request for Expenditure	\$225,000
Remaining Balance	\$1,812,667

The Downtown Community Parking District will propose the allocation of \$1,200,000 for the expansion and operation of FRED in its FY19 budget. The \$180,000 for expansion of the Downtown Wayfinding Signage program for the Downtown Cycleways will also be included in the FY19 Budget. The CIP matching funds for the East Village Green construction are already included in the FY18 Budget.

The above applications are consistent with the following Downtown Community Plan goals and policies:

- **4.1-G-1** Develop a comprehensive open space system that provides a diverse range of outdoor opportunities for residents, workers, and visitors.
- **4.1-G-2** Provide public open space within walking distance of all residents and employees.
- **4.1-P-9** Improve Green Streets as an essential element of the open space system – as connections to the waterfront, Balboa Park, activity centers, and parks and plazas; as tree-lined open spaces; and as continuous recreational paths.
- **5.4-G-2** Envision streets as extensions of downtown’s open space network, presenting opportunities to linger, stroll, and gather, rather than simply as traffic movement spines.
- **7.2-G-4** A network of Greenways that provides a natural respite for downtown residents, employees and visitors, and allows for calm travel along greened corridors.
- **7.2-G-6** A cohesive and well connected bicycle system within downtown that provides linkages within the area and to surrounding neighborhoods, including waterfront and Port District tidelands.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends that the DCPC write letters of support for these grant applications.

Respectfully submitted:



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Brad Richter  
Vice President, Planning

Attachments: A – List of Previous TransNet Grants

## ATTACHMENT A

### LIST OF TRANSNET SMART GROWTH INCENTIVE PROGRAM (SGIP) AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION GRANT PROGRAM (ATGP) GRANTS FROM SANDAG

PROJECT	GRANT	GRANT AMOUNT	MATCHING AMOUNT	MATCHING SOURCE	STATUS
Downtown San Diego Mobility Plan	2012 ATGP Planning	\$300,000	\$300,000	Downtown Parking District	Completed 2016
East Village Green General Development Plan/14 <sup>th</sup> Street Promenade Master Plan	2013 SGIP Planning	\$300,000	\$100,000	Capital Improvement Program (CIP) (Downtown Development Impact Fees, or DIFs)	Completed 2016
Island Avenue Green Street Mobility Improvements	2013 SGIP Capital	\$1,000,000	\$300,000	Downtown Parking District	Completed 2015
Downtown Wayfinding Signage	2013 SGIP Capital	\$335,329 (original request \$500,000)	\$1,000,000	Downtown Parking District	Completed 2015
Sixth Avenue Bridge Promenade Study	2015 SGIP Planning	\$200,000	\$50,000	Downtown FAR Bonus Payment Program Fund	Terminated by Mutual Agreement w/SANDAG \$50,000 spent
14 <sup>th</sup> Street Greenway Demonstration Block	2015 SGIP Capital	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	Downtown FAR Bonus Payment Program Fund	In City Plan Check Anticipate Completion in 2018
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,135,329</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>		