



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

915 I STREET, ROOM 2000
SACRAMENTO, CA
95814

ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION

PH. (916) 808-8300
FAX (916) 808-8281

May 26, 2005

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: GRANT APPLICATIONS: AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:

Sidewalk and crossing improvements at Rio Linda Boulevard and Marysville Boulevard – Council District 2. (See location map - Attachment A)

Sidewalks on 5th Street between McClatchy Way and Broadway - Council District 4. (See location map - Attachment B).

RECOMMENDATION:

This report recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for funding to the Safe Routes to School Grant Program for two projects:

- New sidewalk and pedestrian crossing improvements for Robla Elementary School at Rio Linda Boulevard and Marysville Boulevard. This project will be the City's first priority project.
- New and upgraded sidewalks for Jedediah Smith Elementary School on 5th Street between McClatchy Way and Broadway. This project will be the City's second priority project.

CONTACT PERSONS: Ed Cox, Program Analyst, 808-8434
Theresa Arnold, Special Projects Engineer, 808-5514

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: June 21, 2005

SUMMARY:

The Safe Routes to School Grant Program is in its sixth year and will provide 20 to 25 million dollars to local agencies statewide. The purpose of the program is to make bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements for school-related travel. The original Safe Routes to Schools legislation was a five-year funding bill that expired on January 1, 2005. On September 9, 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger signed new legislation extending the Safe Routes to School program for three more years. The program is now scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2008.

Proposed projects for the Safe Routes to School Grant Program need to be easily deliverable without major right-of-way issues or complex environmental studies.

Staff recommends applying for funds for two projects:

1. Installation of new sidewalks and crossing improvements at Rio Linda Boulevard and Marysville Boulevard. This project will enable safer passage for school children that walk or bike to Robla Elementary School.
2. Installation of a new and upgraded sidewalk on the east side of 5th Street between McClatchy Way and Broadway. This project will enable safer passage for school children that walk along 5th Street to Jedediah Smith School.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:

None.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Established in 1999, the Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Grant Program came into effect from the passage and signing of Assembly Bill 1475 (AB 1475). In 2001, Senate Bill 10 (SB 10) was enacted, which extended the program for three additional years. On September 9, 2004 Governor Schwarzenegger signed new legislation, Senate Bill 1087 (SB 1087), extending the Safe Routes to School program for another three years. The program is now scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2008. The program expects to receive 20 to 25 million dollars in the current cycle, which will be awarded to local jurisdictions statewide. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has established the following factors and criteria to rate Safe Routes to School Grant Program projects:

- Demonstrated needs of the applicant.
- Potential of the proposal for reducing child injuries and fatalities.
- Potential of the proposal for encouraging increased walking and bicycling among students.
- Identification of safety hazards.
- Identification of current and potential walking and bicycling routes to school.
- Consultation and support for projects by school-based associations, local traffic engineers, local elected officials, law enforcement agencies, and school officials.

Caltrans announced a call for projects in March 2005 for the Safe Routes to School Grant Program for its sixth cycle of funding. Project nominations are due by June 30, 2005. The City has applied for several Safe Routes to School grants over the past four years. The grants are awarded through a competitive process. Over the years of submitting applications, Caltrans has been awarding no more than one grant to the City per year. For the last cycle, the City applied for two projects and was only awarded its first priority project; improvements at the intersection of Millcreek Drive and West El Camino Avenue.

For the current funding cycle, the first priority project the City will be submitting is for new sidewalks and crossing improvements at Rio Linda Boulevard and Marysville Boulevard. City staff is currently working with the staff and the parents of the students at Robla Elementary School in the development of the application. This project appears in the Sidewalks to Schools section of the Transportation Programming Guide (TPG) and is ranked number 11.

The second priority project the City will be submitting is for new and upgraded sidewalks along the east side of 5th Street between McClatchy Way and Broadway. This project was previously submitted for funding as the City's second priority project, but was not awarded any funds. This project appears in the Sidewalks to Schools section of the 2005 TPG and is ranked number 22.

Three other candidate projects were considered for this funding cycle. These projects are not recommended because they do not satisfy the various criteria for these funds. The three candidate projects and the reasons for not advancing them as applications are as follows:

- Traffic Signal at 34th and Y Street adjacent to Sacramento High School (2005 TPG Traffic Signal rank #15). This project is not recommended for submittal because this intersection does not appear to have sufficient safety concerns to successfully compete for the funds.
- Traffic Signal at 24th Street and 53rd Avenue adjacent to Woodbine School and Park (2005 TPG Traffic Signal rank #14). This project is not recommended for submittal because the students for this school do not cross 24th Street, which is the major crossing involved.
- Sidewalks at Atlas Avenue and 23rd Avenue near Ethel Phillips Elementary School (2005 TPG Sidewalks to Schools rank #10). This project is not recommended for submittal because of lack of timely response from the school for needed data.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Safe Routes to School Grant Program is a 'reimbursement' program. The reimbursement ratio for all projects will be 90 percent (maximum) with the local agency providing a 10 percent (minimum) local match. The maximum reimbursement amount for any single project is \$450,000. If state funding is obtained, the local match has been reserved in the Miscellaneous Grant Match Program (PN: TX02) and will be transferred when the Capital Improvement Program project is established.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Applying for Grant funding is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 21065 because it does not involve an activity that will cause a direct or indirect physical change in the environment and does not require further environmental review.

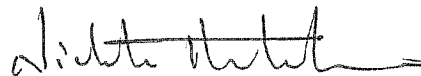
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

This project is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan goals to improve and diversify the transportation system and enhance and preserve the neighborhoods.

ESBD CONSIDERATIONS:

None, since no goods or services are being procured with this action.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas Theocharides,
Engineering Services Manager

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:



ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager

Approved:

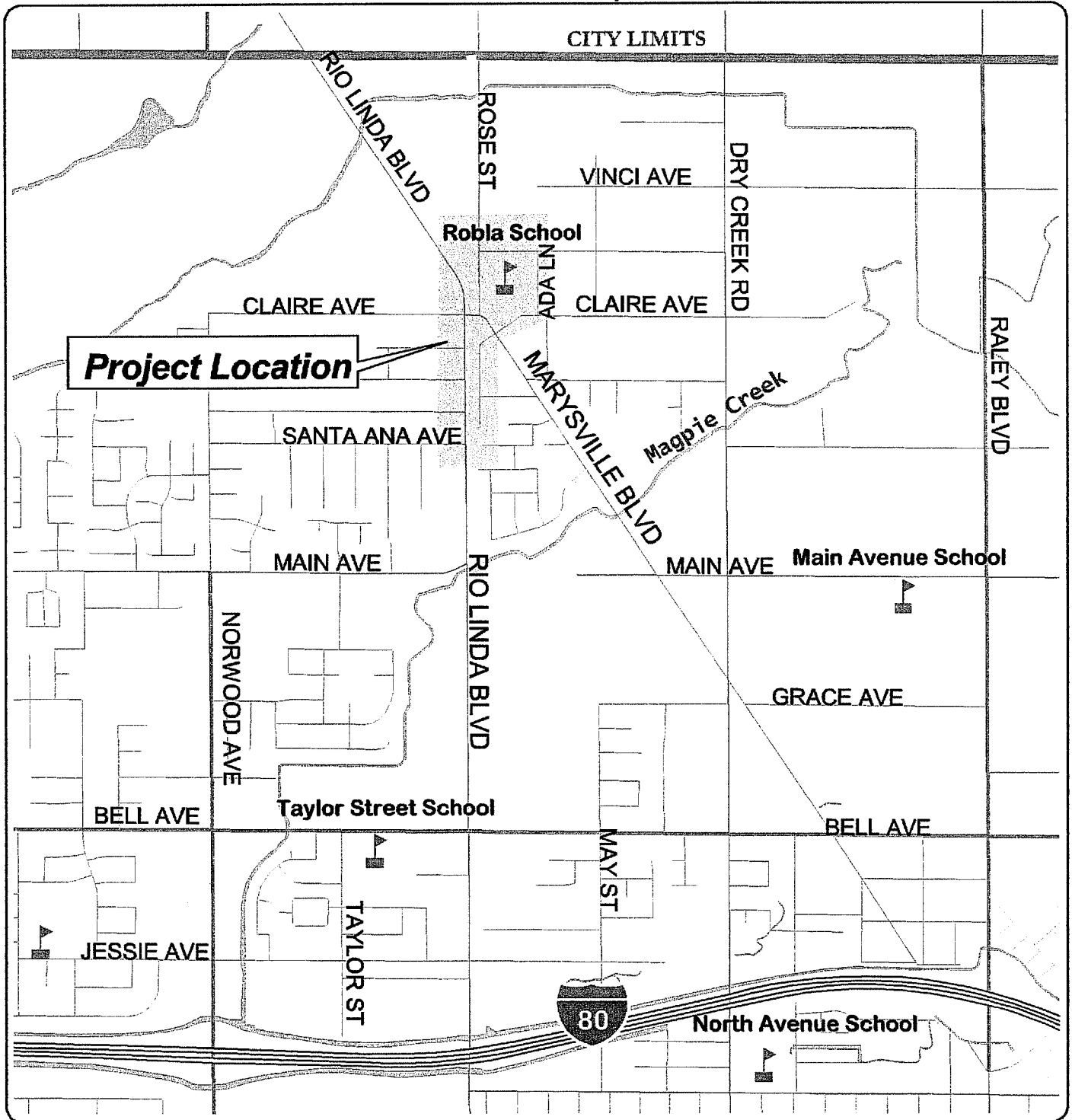


for: Marty Hanneman,
Director, Department of Transportation

Table of Contents

- 1) Attachment A, Location Map, page 5
- 2) Attachment B, Location Map, page 6
- 3) Resolution, page 7

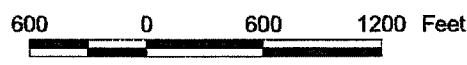
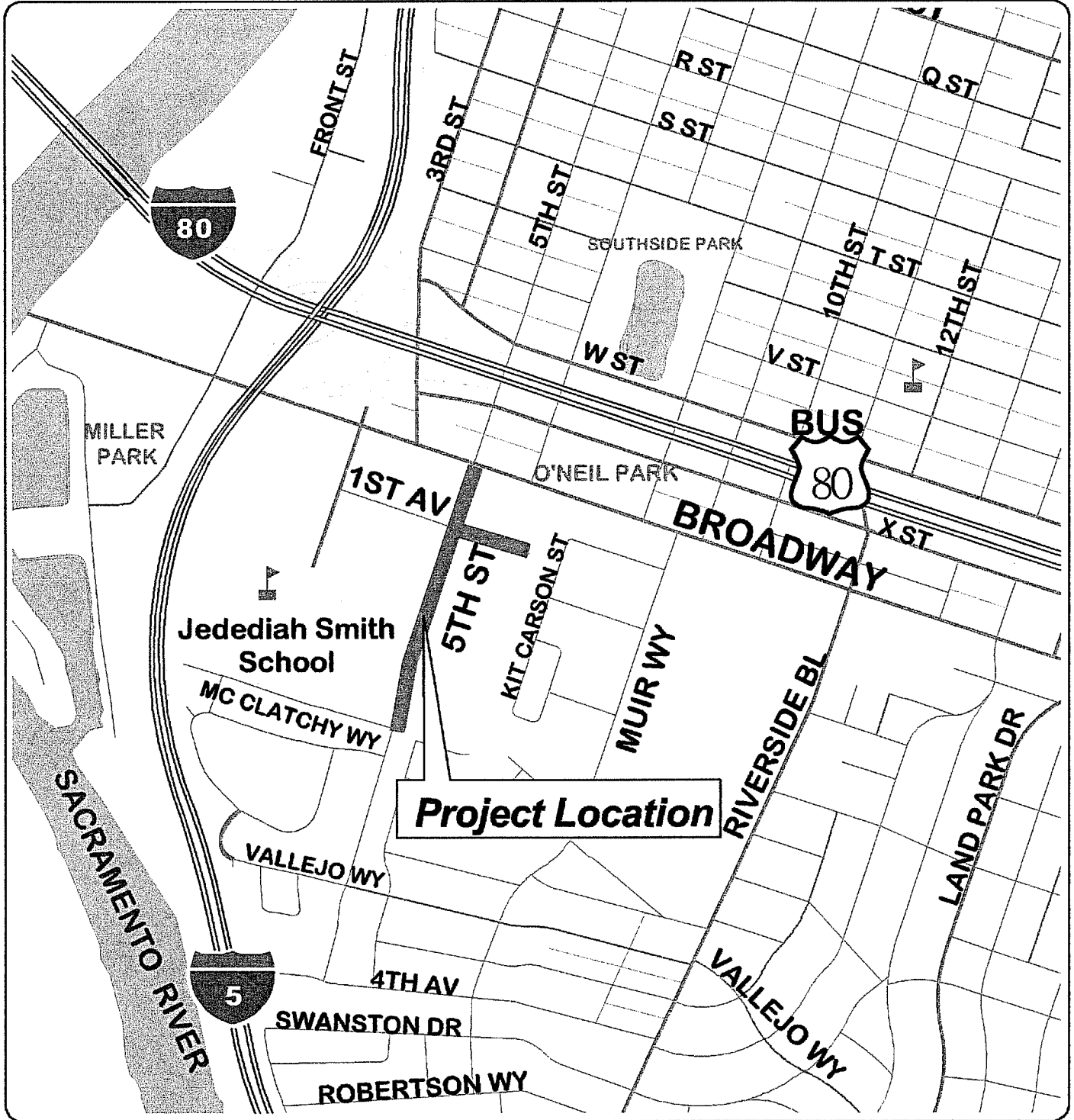
ROBLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS Location Map



Map Date: June, 2005
Map Contact: S. Tobin

Department of
TRANSPORTATION
City of Sacramento

JEDEDIAH SMITH SCHOOL SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS Location Map



Map Date: June, 2005
Map Contact: S. Tobin

Department of
TRANSPORTATION
City of Sacramento

RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____

GRANT APPLICATIONS: AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO THAT:

The City Manager is authorized to submit an application for funding to the Safe Routes to School Grant Program for two projects:

1. New sidewalk and pedestrian crossing improvements for Robla Elementary School at Rio Linda Boulevard and Marysville Boulevard. This project will be the City's first priority project.
2. New and upgraded sidewalks for Jedediah Smith Elementary School on 5th Street between McClatchy Way and Broadway. This project will be the City's second priority project.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO.: _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____