Hem#19

## City of Carson City Agenda Report

Date Submitted: August 10, 2010

Agenda Date Requested: August 19, 2010

Time Requested: 5 minutes

To:

Mayor and Board of Supervisors

From: Public Works - Transportation

Subject Title: Action to authorize the Public Works Department to submit an application for a HUD Community Challenge Planning Grant in the amount of \$240,000 to create a preliminary design for the narrowing of Carson Street between John Street and Stewart Street. (Patrick Pittenger)

Summary: The Board of Supervisors is required to authorize the submittal of applications for grants in excess of \$25,000, pursuant to City Manager policy. The purpose of the Community Challenge Planning Grant is to encourage planning that coordinates housing, economic development, transportation, and environmental policies and goals. The narrowing of Carson Street would facilitate the capital improvement program for downtown Carson City, and would help implement the goals and policies of the Carson City Master Plan. A 20 percent match is required for this grant, which will be funded jointly through the Carson City Redevelopment Authority and the Carson City Regional Transportation Commission (RTC).

Type of Action Requested:  ( ) Resolution (X) Formal Action/Motion	( ) Ordinance ( ) Other ( )		
Does This Action Require A Business Impact Sta	atement:	( ) Yes	(X) No

**Recommended Board Action:** I move to authorize the Public Works Department to submit an application for a HUD Community Challenge Planning Grant in the amount of \$240,000 to create a preliminary design for the narrowing of Carson Street between John Street and Stewart Street.

Explanation for Recommended Board Action: The Carson City Master Plan identified the capital improvement program for downtown Carson City as a high priority action item, of which the narrowing of Carson Street is a major component. The City has previously invested a considerable amount of time and resources in support of this project, including an extensive public involvement process and the leveraging of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds for the modeling and analysis of forecasted traffic patterns. The narrowing of Carson Street would provide several benefits to the downtown area such as on-street parking, improved safety and amenities for pedestrians and bicyclists, and a visually aesthetic and inviting atmosphere for pedestrian activity; all of which is expected to bolster economic development initiatives in the downtown area.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation: N/A

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Fiscal Impact: \$60,000.

**Explanation of Impact:** The grant requires a 20 percent match by the City of the overall project cost. The project is estimated to be \$300,000, \$240,000 of which would be grant funds and \$60,000 of which would come from the Carson City Redevelopment Authority and Carson City RTC. The match would be made within the existing budgets of each respective governing body.

Funding Source: Carson City Redevelopment Authority and Carson City RTC. Alternatives: Do not apply for the grant. 1) Draft grant application responses **Supporting Material:** Prepared By: Patrick Pittenger, Transportation Manager Reviewed By: (District Attorney's Office) **Board Action Taken:** Motion: Aye/Nay (Vote Recorded By)



## **Carson City Public Works**

3505 Butti Way Carson City, Nevada 89701 (775) 887-2355

## **MEMORANDUM**

Board of Supervisors Meeting of August 19, 2010

FROM:

Patrick Pittenger, Transportation Manager

DATE:

July 26, 2010

SUBJECT:

**HUD Community Challenge Planning Grant Application** 

Project Name: Carson Street Road Diet Preliminary Design

Requested Grant Funding: \$240,000

Required Non-Federal Matching Funds: \$60,000

Source of Non-Federal Matching Funds: Carson City Redevelopment Authority, Carson City Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)

<u>Project Description</u>: The project would create a preliminary design for the narrowing of Carson Street to facilitate the capital improvement program for downtown in conformance with the Carson City Master Plan.

Application Due Date: August 23, 2010.

<u>Purpose of Grant:</u> The purpose of the grant, in part, is to promote planning that coordinates housing, economic development, transportation, and environmental policies and goals. Applicants for this grant must demonstrate that their project aligns with HUD's Livability Principles, which are:

- a. Promote more transportation choices
- b. Promote equitable, affordable housing.
- c. Enhance economic competitiveness.
- d. Support existing communities.
- e. Coordinate policies and leverage investment.
- f. Value communities and neighborhoods.

## Carson Street Road Diet Background and Context:

The Envision Carson City Master Plan update process was completed in 2006. This master plan was the result of approximately 18 months of public participation and input. The master plan identifies the importance of investment in the downtown area. One of the ten "guiding principles" of the master plan is to create "a vibrant downtown center for the community." The Carson City Master Plan states:

Guiding Principle 8: A Vibrant Downtown Center for the Community — Over the past decades, traffic in Downtown has increased dramatically—in large part due to Carson Street's role as a state highway—changing it from a once pedestrian-friendly "main street" for the community to a busy throughway. However, with the completion of the Carson City Freeway to Fairview Drive anticipated in 2008 and to South Carson Street by 2010, Downtown will again be subject to change. The freeway is projected to divert approximately ½ of the current traffic volume from Carson Street, giving the City an opportunity to reclaim its former pedestrian-friendly environment in Downtown. In light of this opportunity, Carson City will continue to promote infill and redevelopment activities along Carson Street and throughout Downtown to support the community's goal of reestablishing Downtown as a vibrant center for the community. Specific development opportunities (in terms of use and scale) will vary according to their location within Downtown.

While the freeway has not yet been completed, significant progress has been made to increase the traffic-carrying capacity of parallel facilities, including Curry Street, North Stewart Street, Roop Street, and Phase 2A of the freeway itself. A decrease in the traffic volume on Carson Street has already been realized.

The master plan addresses the benefits of reducing the number of lanes on Carson Street. The community's vision for Carson Street, as identified in the Master Plan, is as follows:

Create a more pedestrian-friendly environment in Downtown by evaluating the feasibility of reducing traffic from 4 to 2 lanes along Carson Street following the completion of the Freeway and by identifying necessary streetscape enhancements and parking strategies to coincide with the potential reduction in lanes (e.g., re-introduce on-street parking, incorporate pedestrian cross-walks, landscaping, bulb-outs, and street furniture). In addition to providing a safer pedestrian environment, these enhancements will visually enhance Downtown and create a more inviting environment. The incorporation of public gathering spaces, such as outdoor plazas, pocket parks, and other amenities, including landscaping, is encouraged to enhance the pedestrian environment within Downtown, to create opportunities for outdoor concerts and events, and to create passive recreational opportunities for Downtown residents.

In addition to the public input received during the development of the master plan, a travel demand model was developed for Carson City and the nearby surrounding area and an analysis focused on forecasted traffic patterns in the downtown area as a result of the narrowing of Carson Street. The results of the analysis support the Carson Street "road diet" by indicating a sufficient level of service for traffic flow, including during peak travel periods. The reduction of Carson Street from four to two lanes would improve the safety for drivers and pedestrians alike by providing more predictable traffic flow and eliminating the need for pedestrians to cross two through lanes of traffic when crossing the street. The combination of proposed improvements and planned amenities would foster a healthy environment for economic development in the downtown area.

For more information on the HUD Community Challenge and Tiger II Planning Grants, link to: <a href="http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa10/huddotnofa.cfm">http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa10/huddotnofa.cfm</a>
Or contact Lee Plemel, Planning Director, at 887-2180 ext. 30075, or lplemel@carson.org.