Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Richard J. Bruckner
Director

May 21, 2013

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF THE WILLOWBROOK TOD SPECIFIC PLAN (SECOND SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Recommendation to authorize the Director of Regional Planning to accept and implement a grant award under the Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant Program to support the development of the Willowbrook TOD Specific Plan.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Authorize the Director of Planning, or his designee, to accept grant funding of $546,035 from Metro for the purpose of developing the Willowbrook TOD Specific Plan, and to execute all necessary documents to administer the grant.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommendation will enable the Department of Regional Planning to accept grant funding from Metro for the development of a TOD Specific Plan and related environmental review for the unincorporated community of Willowbrook.

The Los Angeles County General Plan Update identifies the County's TODs as priority policy areas. In order to create vibrant and healthy TODs, the County envisions developing specific plans for all TODs that are located in the unincorporated areas of

Los Angeles County. The Willowbrook TOD Specific Plan will be the first, and therefore, serve as the model for future TOD specific plans. Building from the goals and policies outlined in the Los Angeles County General Plan Update, the Willowbrook TOD Specific Plan aims to encourage transit-oriented development, promote active transportation, promote healthy communities, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and streamline the environmental review process for future development projects.

The Willowbrook TOD Specific Plan supports the General Plan Update TOD Program. The Specific Plan will develop from the ideas and vision set forth in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center Campus Master Plan, and Metro's Rosa Parks Station Study, and concurrent initiatives by the Arts Commission, Department of Public Works, Community Development Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, and Department of Public Health. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center Campus Master Plan, which was approved by your Board on January 15, 2013, is a community vision and roadmap intended to promote wellness and physical activities in the community through tangible and practical recommendations, such as connected community gardens, mixed-use retail space, safe pedestrian walkways and recreational facilities and access to public transportation. The Willowbrook TOD Specific Plan presents the opportunity to take these and other recommendations and translate them into regulatory land use and infrastructure policies, and link these efforts to the General Plan Update.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Participation in the Metro TOD Planning Grant Program promotes the County's Strategic Plan goal of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) and Integrated Service Delivery (Goal 3) by developing a specific plan that will be coordinated with concurrent County initiatives, and by supporting existing and creating new opportunities to promote healthy communities for the area near the Metro Rosa Parks Station. The effort will serve as a model that can be applied to future TOD specific plan efforts in other unincorporated communities.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Participation in the Metro TOD Planning Grant Program will not result in any new significant costs to the County. The County will be receiving a grant in the amount of $546,036; the funds will be used to hire a consultant and to support personnel costs and operating expenses.

Funding is included in the Department of Regional Planning's adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14 and will be requested in future fiscal years, as necessary.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

All documents required for the acceptance of the awarded grant will be subject to approval by County Counsel prior to execution by the Director of Regional Planning.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The acceptance of the grant will not have an effect on the environment and is exempt from CEQA, pursuant to Section 15262 of the CEQA Guidelines.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Participation in the Metro TOD Planning Grant Program will enable the County to prepare the Willowbrook TOD Specific Plan sooner than anticipated. Implementation and completion of the project will improve planning and services to the public by providing updated planning processes and promoting healthy communities.

Should you have any questions, please contact Connie Chung in the General Plan Development and Housing Section at (213) 974-6417 or cchung@planning.lacounty.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Bruckner for
Director RJB

RJB:JS:CC:ems

Attachment

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson, Anthony Baker)
Arts Commission
Community Development Commission
Parks and Recreation
Public Health
Public Works

K_AP_052113_BL_TOD

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AUTHORIZING RECEIPT OF GRANT FUNDS UNDER THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the County of Los Angeles (County) is eligible to receive approximately $546,035 under the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds as follows:

1. The Department of Regional Planning submitted a proposal to obtain funding from the Metro TOD Planning Grant Program to develop a TOD specific plan for the unincorporated community of Willowbrook.

2. On January 15, 2013, the County Board of Supervisors approved the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center Campus Master Plan, which is a community vision and roadmap intended to promote wellness and physical activities in the community through tangible and practical recommendations such as connected community gardens, mixed-use retail space, safe pedestrian walkways and recreational facilities and access to public transportation.

3. The Los Angeles County General Plan Update identifies the County's TODs as priority policy areas. In order to create vibrant and healthy TODs, the County envisions developing specific plans for all of the County's TODs that are located in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

4. The Willowbrook TOD Specific Plan will be the first, and therefore, serve as the model for future TOD specific plans.

5. The Willowbrook TOD Specific Plan aims to encourage transit-oriented development, promote active transportation, promote healthy communities, reduce vehicles miles traveled, and streamline the environmental review process for future development projects.

6. The Willowbrook TOD Specific Plan presents the opportunity to take the recommendations in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center Campus Master Plan and other studies, and translate them into regulatory land use and infrastructure policies, and to tie these efforts to the General Plan Update.

7. Funds totaling $546,035 from the Metro TOD Planning Grant Program will be allocated to the County of Los Angeles.

8. The Board of Supervisors must authorize receipt of the Metro TOD Planning Grant funds.

9. In accordance with Section 15262 of the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, adoption of this resolution and acceptance of grant funds does not constitute a project and, therefore, is not subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. That the recommended project proposal is consistent with the goals, policies, and programs of the Los Angeles County General Plan.

2. That the project proposal reflects actions that will help promote healthy communities in the unincorporated areas.

3. That the proposal for the receipt of Metro TOD Planning Grant Program funds is approved and that this approval will not have a significant effect on the environment.

4. That the Director of Regional Planning, or his designee, is authorized to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, receipt of funds and payment requests, which may be necessary for the purposes of administering this grant.

The foregoing Resolution was on the _____ day of _____, 2013 adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies and authorities for which said Board so acts.

_____
Sachi A. Hamai
Executive Officer-Clerk of
Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JOHN F. KRATTLI
County Counsel

By _____
JILL M. JONES
Deputy County Counsel