



Office of the City Manager

RECESS ITEM
CONSENT CALENDAR
 September 10, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: LaTanya Bellow, Interim City Manager
 Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront
 Subject: Grant Application: U.S. DOT – Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant – South Cove West Parking Lot Renovation and EV Charging Project

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to submit a grant application to the U.S. DOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant program for the South Cove West Parking Lot Renovation and EV Charging Project.

NEGATIVE EFFECT IF ACTION IS DELAYED UNTIL AFTER COUNCIL RECESS

City policy requires council authorization of grant applications that involve a commitment of City funds (e.g., local matching funds). The CFI grant deadline is August 28, 2024. Without authorization, the City will be unable to submit a grant application to the 2024 CFI grant program for this project.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None. If the City is awarded the grant, staff will return to Council for authorization to accept the funds, execute any resulting grant agreements, appropriate additional funding, and implement the projects. The CFI grant program requires a 20% local match of the project cost. The cost of the electrical vehicle charging phase of the project is \$625,000. The City has allocated \$125,000 (20%) to the project using local City funds.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the CFI grant program was published on May 30, 2024, and has a grant submittal deadline of August 28, 2024. The City will submit a grant application in the amount of \$500,000 to help fund the installation of electric vehicle charging stations at the South Cove West Parking Lot Renovation Project.

BACKGROUND

In November of 2021, congress enacted the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) of 2021 to provide billions in competitive grant-funded programs to address infrastructure needs across the U.S. over the next several years. The U.S. DOT CFI program is one of the new grant programs funded by the BIL of 2021. The CFI Program will accelerate an electrified and

Grant Application: CFI electric vehicle charging phase at South Cove West Lot

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alternative fuel transportation system that is convenient, affordable, reliable, equitable, accessible, and safe. The CFI Program will also help put the United States on a path to a nationwide network of at least 500,000 EV chargers by 2030 and improve networks for vehicles using hydrogen, propane, and natural gas.

In the spring of 2024, the City began the design for the renovation of the South Cove West Parking Lot with electrical charging (EV) at the Berkeley Waterfront using grant funds from the California State Coastal Conservancy (\$1,270,733) and local City funds (\$418,656), for a total project cost of \$1.689 million. A grant from the CFI grant program will allow the City to complete the renovation project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

This grant would support the City's Climate Action Plan and its goal of becoming a Fossil Fuel Free city as established through the June 12, 2018 City Council referral. This grant would support the City's goal of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, which would result in cleaner air for residents.

The proposed action is to adopt a resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application for a U.S. DOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant. The submission of a grant application is a funding mechanism that does not involve any commitment to any specific project and does not limit the choice of alternatives or mitigation measures. The proposed activity is therefore not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15060(c)(3) and 15378(b). Appropriate environmental review consistent with the requirements of CEQA will be completed prior to specific project action.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Submitting a project to this highly competitive grant program will help the City reach its Climate Adaptation and Resiliency goals and help facilitate the use of electric vehicles in Berkeley.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSON

Scott Ferris, Director of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront, 981-6703

Nelson Lam, Supervising Civil Engineer, PRW, 981-6395

Attachments

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S

GRANT APPLICATION: U.S. DOT – CHARGING AND FUELING INFRASTRUCTURE DISCRETIONARY GRANT – SOUTH COVE WEST PARKING LOT RENOVATION AND EV CHARGING PROJECT

WHEREAS, in November of 2021, congress enacted the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) of 2021 to provide billions in competitive grant-funded programs to address infrastructure needs across the U.S. over the next several years; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. DOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant program CFI program is one of the new grant programs funded by the BIL of 2021; and

WHEREAS, the CFI grant program has a submittal deadline of August 28, 2024; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 2024, the City began the design for the renovation of the South Cove West Parking Lot and electrical charging (EV) at the Berkeley Waterfront using grant funds from the California State Coastal Conservancy (\$1,270,733) and local City funds (\$418,656), for a total project cost of \$1.689 million; and

WHEREAS, the City will submit a grant application to allow the City to complete the renovation project.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council ratifies the action taken by the City Manager during recess to submit a grant application to the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program for the South Cove West Parking Lot Renovation and EV Charging Project in the amount of up to \$500,000. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

