



**DATE:** June 22, 2017

**TO:** Transportation Authority of Marin Board of Commissioners

**FROM:** David Chan, Programming Manager

**SUBJECT:** Authorize San Rafael to exchange Transportation Sales Tax (Measure A) Funds from the Grand Avenue Bridge Project with One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) Funds from the Francisco Boulevard West Multi-Use Path (Action), Agenda Item No. 6b

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize San Rafael to exchange \$288,000 in Transportation Sales Tax (Measure A) Funds from the Grand Avenue Bridge Project with \$288,000 in MTC-granted One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) Funds from the Francisco Boulevard West Multi-Use Path.

## **BACKGROUND**

### Grand Avenue Bridge Project

The Grand Avenue Bridge Project will construct a pedestrian/bicycle bridge across the San Rafael Canal along the east side of Grand Avenue, new sidewalk construction on the west side of Grand Avenue, and elimination of an uncontrolled crosswalk crossing Francisco Boulevard East, all to provide safer, critical access to the Bettini Transit Center, schools, and shopping for residents of the Canal Neighborhood.

In December 2015, the TAM Board programmed \$484,000 in Measure A funds to the Grand Avenue Bridge Project.

### Francisco Boulevard West Multi-Use Path

The Francisco Blvd West Multi-Use Path Project will construct a multi-use pathway adjacent to the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) alignment from 2nd Street to Andersen Drive. A standard asphalt pathway with a width that varies from 8 feet wide to 10 feet wide will be constructed. The project includes the replacement of an existing pedestrian bridge, which is too narrow, with a new pedestrian bridge near Irwin Street.

In December 2016, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) programmed \$1,000,000 in OBAG funds to the Francisco Boulevard West Multi-Use Path.

## **DISCUSSION**

San Rafael has requested MTC to exchange the \$1,000,000 in OBAG funds programmed to the Francisco Blvd West Multi-Use Path Project with \$1,000,000 of local funds from the Grand Avenue Bridge Project to avoid “federalizing” the Francisco Blvd West Multi-Use Path Project.

SMART will be awarding a design build contract for the Larkspur Rail Extension. Since most of the Multi-Use Path alignment is in SMART's right-of-way, the Multi-Use Path is anticipated to parallel the rail tracks. While San Rafael is the sponsor Multi-Use Path, San Rafael anticipates using SMART to construct the Multi-Use Path concurrent with the rail extension, which would offer valuable time-saving and cost-efficiency since SMART already is retaining a design-build contractor on the rail project. Since the rail project is not federalized, federal funds cannot be used on the Multi-Use Path if San Rafael uses SMART for construction unless programmed federal funds are exchanged with non-federal funds.

San Rafael has proposed to exchange \$712,000 in local funds and \$288,000 in Measure A funds from the Grand Avenue Bridge Project with \$1,000,000 in federal OBAG funds granted from MTC from the Francisco Blvd West Multi-Use Path Project.

MTC will authorize the funding exchange on the condition that TAM authorizes the transfer of \$288,000 in Measure A funds from the Grand Avenue Bridge Project to the Francisco Blvd West Multi-Use Path Project. As noted above, the TAM Board allocated \$484,000 in Measure A funds to the Grand Avenue Bridge Project in December 2015. Only \$288,000 of the \$484,000 will need to be exchanged to fulfill the commitment. The remaining \$196,000 in Measure A will remain with the Grand Avenue Bridge Project for construction.

#### **FISCAL IMPACTS**

There are no fiscal impacts. The Measure A funds were anticipated in the development of the FY 17/18 TAM Budget and has been included as expected reimbursement of \$484,000 under the Measure A Strategy 2 for the Grand Avenue Bridge Project. The FY 17/18 TAM Budget will be amended to show \$288,000 in Measure A funds for the Francisco Boulevard West Multi-Use Path, leaving \$196,000 for the Grand Avenue Bridge Project.

#### **NEXT STEP**

Inform MTC that the TAM Board has authorized the exchange of Measure A funds with OBAG funds between the Grand Avenue Bridge Project and the Francisco Blvd West Multi-Use Path Project.