

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

August 8, 2023

FROM

BRENDON BIGGS, Director, Department of Public Works – Transportation

SUBJECT

Grant Application Submission to United States Department of Transportation Multimodal Project Program for Bridge Reconstruction on National Trails Highway in the Daggett and Amboy Areas

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Approve and authorize the submission of a grant application to the United States Department of Transportation's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program, in the amount of \$30,000,000, to partially fund the \$79,000,000 estimated total cost for reconstruction of 27 timber bridges, located on National Trails Highway, between Daggett-Yermo Road and Amboy Road.
2. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer or Director of the Department of Public Works to sign and submit the grant application referenced in Recommendation No. 1 via electronic application submission, subject to review by County Counsel.
3. Direct the Director of the Department of Public Works to transmit the grant application referenced in Recommendation No. 1 to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors within 30 days of submission.

(Presenter: Brendon Biggs, Director, 387-7906)

COUNTY AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Create, Maintain and Grow Jobs and Economic Value in the County.

Operate in a Fiscally Responsible and Business-Like Manner.

Provide for the Safety, Health and Social Service Needs of County Residents.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Approval of this item will not result in the use of additional Discretionary General Funding (Net County Cost). The total estimated cost to reconstruct the 27 timber bridges located on National Trails Highway between Daggett-Yermo Road and Amboy Road (Project) is \$79,000,000. The Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program guidelines require a minimum local match of 20% for selected Rural Surface Transportation (RURAL) Grant projects and a local match of 40% for Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant projects but will permit half of the INFRA required match to include other federal funds.

The San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) committed allocating \$49,000,000 for use by the County as the local match. Funding sources for the local match amount will be funded with Local Partnership Program, Surface Transportation Program, and State Transportation Improvement Program funds administered by the SBCTA. The MDPG grant only applies to rural areas and the SBCTA funds that will be used as a local match for this grant are available only for projects in the North Desert Subarea, where National Trails Highway

**Grant Application Submission to United States Department of
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August 8, 2023**

is located. Sufficient appropriation and revenue are included in the Department of Public Works (Department) 2023-24 Road Operations budget to fund the costs associated with submission of this grant application.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Approval and submission of the grant application will allow the Department to compete for grant funds under the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) MPDG grant program to replace 27 bridges on National Trails Highway (Historic Route 66) that are 20 feet or less in length. Bridges 20 feet or less in length are not eligible for the Federal Highway Bridge Program funding and the County must find other funding sources to reconstruct these bridges.

The DOT 2023 MPDG is comprised of three separate grant components: the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program, the National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA) grant program and the Rural Surface Transportation (RURAL) grant program. Applicants are only required to submit a single solicitation application through any one of the three programs for consideration under all three grant opportunities. The Project is ineligible for the MEGA grant, but the Department will request funding from the INFRA and the RURAL program components.

Historic Route 66 is extremely important to both local and regional traffic circulation. This section of National Trails Highway provides a critical alternate route when Interstate 40 experiences unanticipated emergency closures due to accidents, freeway construction, or storm events. The United States Marine Corps also utilizes National Trails Highway as a critical route for the movement of heavy equipment necessary for national defense training activities in this region. There are 33 bridges that are 20 feet or less in length that were constructed in the 1920s and 1930s that are now beyond their intended design life and would benefit from reconstruction to maintain public safety and the structural integrity of the roadway. Six of these bridges are being replaced with funding from SBCTA. The Department is requesting funding under this grant opportunity to supplement funding from SBCTA for the reconstruction of the Project. The MPDG grant program provides such a funding opportunity. MPDG grant funding will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that demonstrate a significant local or regional impact, cost-effectiveness and improve and expand infrastructure in rural areas.

The deadline for the submission of the MPDG grant application to the DOT is August 21, 2023. The grant application, exhibits, and required federal forms are submitted electronically. The federal SF-424 form to be submitted with the grant application requires a certification that the information contained in the grant application is true and correct, County provides assurance to comply with federal law, and that funding for the local match has been committed to the Project. No wet signature is required. Instead, electronic submission of the SF-424 constitutes the signature certifying and transmitting the grant application. Approval of this item will authorize the Chief Executive Officer or Director of the Department to electronically sign and submit the grant application via electronic application submission, subject to review by County Counsel.

These actions meet the County and the Chief Executive Officer's goals and objectives of creating, maintaining, and growing jobs and economic value in the County by ensuring a primary and alternate route for the movement of people and goods; operating in a fiscally-responsible and business-like manner by pursuing grant opportunities for County projects; and providing for the safety, health and social service needs of County residents by replacing bridges beyond their design life.

**Grant Application Submission to United States Department of
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August 8, 2023**

PROCUREMENT

Not applicable.

REVIEW BY OTHERS

This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Aaron Gest, Deputy County Counsel, 387-5455) on July 14, 2023; Finance (Carl Lofton, Administrative Analyst, 387-5404) on July 21, 2023; and County Finance and Administration (Paloma Hernandez-Barker, Deputy Executive Officer, 387-5423) on July 24, 2023.

**Grant Application Submission to United States Department of
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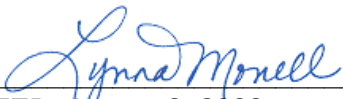
Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors
San Bernardino County

APPROVED (CONSENT CALENDAR)

Moved: Curt Hagman Seconded: Joe Baca, Jr.

Ayes: Col. Paul Cook (Ret.), Jesse Armendarez, Dawn Rowe, Curt Hagman, Joe Baca, Jr.

Lynna Monell, CLERK OF THE BOARD

BY 
DATED: August 8, 2023



cc: File - Transportation w/ attachments

JLL 08/11/2023