April 21, 2015

Raul M. Rojas
DIRECTOR

Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Marin City Community-Based Transportation Plan Update 2015

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution Accepting the Marin City Community-Based Transportation Plan Update 2015

SUMMARY: In 2009, the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) completed the Marin City Community-Based Transportation Plan (CBTP). In January 2014, funding was authorized to conduct an update to the Marin City CBTP to review completed projects from the 2009 CBTP and to further engage the community to update their identification and prioritization of current transportation needs. The Marin City CBTP Update 2015 was developed through a collaborative effort through a grassroots approach and includes 19 community-identified transportation strategies with 12 community-identified potential improvement projects to address transportation needs.

DISCUSSION: The Community-Based Transportation Planning Program is a grassroots approach by local Congestion Management Agencies (CMAs) to prepare plans identifying the transportation needs of low-income residents and solutions to address those needs. Recommended transportation improvements in a Community-Based Transportation Plan (CBTP) qualify for funding under the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s (MTC) Lifeline Grant Program. Examples of the types of improvements that can be funded by this program include crosswalk and lighting safety enhancements, sidewalk extensions and widening, increased participation in the Safe Routes to School program, new bus shelters, and modified or increased transit service.

TAM is acting as the project manager. Beginning in October 2014, TAM staff and their consultant team, Fehr & Peers, worked closely with the Marin City community to identify continuing and new transportation needs and prioritize potential strategies to address those needs. Marin City Community Services District staff, Board members, and Marin County staff from Public Works, Community Development, Health and Human Services, the Marin Housing Authority, Sheriff, and the Marin County Fire Department worked on an advisory basis with TAM staff and their consultant during this project. The County’s commitment to the project includes staff participation on a Technical Advisory Committee, assistance with public engagement, review of draft documents, and completing the County’s process for review and finalization.
The final CBTP has been developed through the collaborative efforts of TAM, the Technical Advisory Committee, the Marin City Community Services District Board acting as the Stakeholder Committee, and other stakeholders. The preparation of the plan update lasted approximately 4 months and included an intensive, grassroots community outreach and engagement effort. Outreach mechanisms included surveys, flyers, email communications, door-to-door promotion, a series of focus groups, and an open house. The survey was administered in paper and online formats with the same content. The Marin City CSD Board received regular updates, providing additional opportunities for Board and public input at 5 of their meetings. The Marin City CSD Board provided unanimous support at their February 5, 2015, meeting.

The proposed final Marin City CBTP Update 2015 is provided in Attachment 1. Upon acceptance of the plan by the County Board of Supervisors, the proposed plan will be presented to the TAM Board at their April 23, 2015, meeting for acceptance. TAM staff has also said that they will be able to make changes to the plan based upon the Board’s discussion.

The attached plan contains 19 community-identified and prioritized transportation strategies in Chapter 5. The projects identified in the plan will be considered during development of Department work plans. However, acceptance of the Plan does not commit the County to implement or apply for grant funding for the recommended transportation solutions. Implementation of any of these strategies would be contingent on staffing, funding, work program prioritization, and continued community support for the proposed projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: The Community-Based Transportation Plan is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guideline Section 15304, Minor alteration to land. THE CBTP describes goals, policies, and recommends improvements. These activities meet the criteria of CEQA Guideline Section 15304, subsections (a), (f), and (h).

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no impact to the General Fund. The preparation and completion of the CBTP is funded by TAM. Completion and acceptance of the CBTP would assist in the preparation of grant applications and enhance the likelihood of receiving subsequent grant funding for needed infrastructure improvements.

REVIEW BY:

[ ] Auditor Controller [X] N/A
[ ] County Counsel [X] N/A
[ ] Human Resources [X] N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Goralka
Principal Civil Engineer

Attachments:
1. Final Draft Marin City Community-Based Transportation Plan Update 2015
2. Resolution Accepting the Marin City CBTP Update 2015