

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	February 23, 2021
SUBJECT:	Receive Presentation on Strategic Partnership Grant Application for the SR-273 Northern Section Multimodal Corridor Plan
AGENDA ITEM:	16
STAFF CONTACT:	Michael Kuker, Associate Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

SRTA has submitted a Caltrans Strategic Partnerships Grant application to help prepare a comprehensive multimodal corridor plan for State Route 273 (SR-273) from Canyon Road to its northern terminus.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors receive a presentation on SRTA's application to the FY 2021/22 Caltrans Strategic Partnership Grant Program for the SR-273 Northern Section Multimodal Corridor Plan, and provide any comments to staff.

DISCUSSION:

State Route 273 connects the cities of Redding and Anderson and serves numerous outlying communities through feeder streets and roads. Despite significant changes in land use and population along the corridor over the years, the corridor stands largely unchanged since it was renumbered from State Route 99 following completion of Interstate 5. This has resulted in numerous suboptimal operational and safety conditions. For example, the corridor accounted for 20% of all pedestrian collisions in the entire Shasta Region and 43% of all pedestrian collision fatalities in the five-year period between 2013 and 2018.

SR-273 is overdue for a comprehensive evaluation to identify future improvements that align with current and future land uses and the needs of local residents, businesses, and travelers. As a resource-constrained region, this corridor can only be addressed in a comprehensive manner with the assistance of grant funding. The scale and complexity of the effort dictate that it be broken up into two sections. SRTA is applying for Strategic Partnership funds to address the section north of Canyon Road (a roughly 9-mile segment) and Caltrans District 2 is applying for a Special Studies grant to fund a similar effort from Canyon Road to the southern terminus (roughly 7 miles). If both the north segment SRTA grant and the south segment Caltrans grant are funded, SRTA would look to consolidate the funds into a single effort with one procurement.

If awarded, the SR-273 Northern Section Multimodal Corridor Plan will be informed by recent and ongoing planning efforts, including public outreach performed by Caltrans as part of the SR-273 Multimodal Plan, the SR-273 Transportation Concept Report, the 2016 Downtown Redding Transportation Plan, the ResilientShasta Extreme Climate Event Mobility and Adaptation Plan, and others.

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The plan's goals are to reduce barriers to the movement of people and goods, enhance safety for all corridor users, improve transit opportunities, and strengthen the resiliency of our transportation system. Given the corridor's regional significance, the effort will require considerable outreach to and input from all jurisdictions and stakeholders, as well as the public; the grant program gives special emphasis to outreach targeting disadvantaged communities.

Deliverables will include conceptual drawings and designs and a prioritized list of projects to be incorporated into the regional transportation plan. It is anticipated some improvements will be able to be programmed through State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP), and others may require additional grant funding through programs such as the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), the Active Transportation Plan, and other discretionary grants.

Strategic Partnership grant awards are expected to be announced in June 2021. If awarded, planning efforts could begin in Fall 2021 by issuing a request for proposals (RFP) from consultants. The detailed work plan will be developed in consultation with partner agencies.

ALTERNATIVES:


The board of directors may suggest ideas to carry out the work or withdraw the application.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The proposed scope of work is written with enough flexibility to allow considerable input from local agencies and stakeholders throughout the planning process. Caltrans District 2 is applying for a Special Studies grant to help fund the segment of 273 from Canyon Road to its southern terminus. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) concurs with the staff recommendation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The anticipated SR-273 Comprehensive Corridor Plan project budget is \$625,000. SRTA is asking for a Strategic Partnership grant award of \$500,000, which will require a local match of \$125,000 (20%) that may be in the form of cash match or an eligible in-kind contribution, such as staff time. The staff time is currently budgeted in the draft overall work program for FY 2021/22.



Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachment: The SR-273 Comprehensive Corridor Plan grant application is online at <https://www.srta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5332/>