

**AGENDA:** November 2, 2006

**TO:** Regional Transportation Commission  
**FROM:** Karena Pushnik, Senior Transportation Planner  
**RE:** Mobility OutReach and Education (M.O.R.E.) Grant Application

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) retroactively approve submittal of a Caltrans Environmental Justice grant application on behalf of Community Bridges for the Mobility OutReach and Education (M.O.R.E.) project.

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## **BACKGROUND**

Caltrans annually offers grant funding opportunities for projects related to environmental justice/context sensitive planning, community-based, partnership and transit planning. Last year the Regional Transportation Commission was unsuccessful in an application for an Environmental Justice grant to fund the Transportation Funding Task Force.

## **DISCUSSION**

Community Bridges contacted staff early on in this year's grant cycle regarding their potential submittal of an application for a project called the Mobility OutReach and Education (M.O.R.E.) program. As shown in their application, the goal of the program would be to secure more and better information from seniors, people with disabilities, low income and other "transportation disenfranchised" individuals (Attachment 1). Based on the recently completed input process for the Transportation Funding Task Force which included extensive outreach through traditional means (media, workshops and an interactive website), it was determined that the minimal input from transportation disenfranchised groups warranted a different outreach/input approach. Community Bridges proposes to go out into the community -- into residential, medical and neighborhood centers -- to reach these underserved individuals in areas where they naturally congregate. Participants will be surveyed about their current and projected transportation needs. The project includes outreach and education in English, Spanish and other languages, as necessary.

Community Bridges staff presented their idea to the October 10 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and secured a letter of support (Attachment 2). Additional letters of support were received from County Supervisor Tony Campos, Senior Network Services, Seniors Council and the board of Community Bridges.

Community Bridges prepared a grant application for \$94,023 from the Caltrans Planning Grant (Attachment 1). On the day that the application was due, Community Bridges staff became aware that they, as a non-profit organization (503.C.3) may only apply for the grant as a sub-recipient with a Metropolitan Transportation Organization, Regional Transportation Planning Agency, City or County as the lead applicant. Therefore, Community Bridges asked RTC staff to submit the application through the RTC. Typically, RTC staff obtains approval from the RTC prior to submitting grant applications. Considering the need for the program proposed by Community Bridges and the support obtained for the application, staff agreed to submit the application but informed Community Bridges that retroactive approval from the RTC would be needed. Therefore, **staff recommends that the RTC retroactively approve the application for a Caltrans Environmental Justice/Context Sensitive Planning Grant on behalf of Community Bridges for the Mobility OutReach and Education (M.O.R.E.) Program.**

If Caltrans approves the grant, a memorandum of understanding will be developed between Community Bridges and the RTC to formalize pass-through payment and project completion requirements.

## **SUMMARY**

Community Bridges developed a program idea for a Caltrans Environmental Justice/Context Sensitive planning grant; however, because they may not apply directly, the Regional Transportation Commission staff submitted an application at the last minute on their behalf. Staff recommends retroactive approval from the RTC for this submitted application.

### Attachments:

1. M.O.R.E. Program Grant Application
2. Letter of support from the E/D TAC for the M.O.R.E. Program Grant Application