

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	February 23, 2021
SUBJECT:	Receive Presentation on Strategic Partnership Grant Application for the SR-273 Corridor
AGENDA ITEM:	18
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 the entirety of State Route 273 (SR-273).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors receive a presentation regarding an application for the FY 2021/22 Caltrans Strategic Partnership Grant Program and provide any comments or further recommendations to staff.

DISCUSSION:

State Route 273 connects the cities of Redding and Anderson and serves numerous outlying communities through feeder streets and roads. It is arguably part of the oldest travel corridor in the region and, in many ways, largely unchanged since it was renumbered from State Route 99 following the regional completion of Interstate 5. Although there have been localized improvements on 273 in recent years, including the installation of ADA-compliant sidewalks in parts of South Redding, the corridor overall remains one of the most dangerous in the Shasta Region, accounting for 20% of all pedestrian collisions in the Shasta Region and 43% of all pedestrian collision fatalities in the five-year period between 2013 and 2018.

In short, 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.

If awarded, the SR-273 Comprehensive Corridor Plan will build off past efforts, incorporating public outreach performed by Caltrans as part of the SR-273 Multimodal Plan and the SR-273 Transportation Concept Report. Caltrans District 2 is also applying for a Special Studies grant to supplement this effort. SRTA and District 2 have coordinated the scopes of work for each application to support each other by aligning with the Caltrans Corridor Planning Process Guide as summarized below:

1. Define the effort and partnerships.
2. Gather information, including current and future conditions.
3. Evaluate corridor performance and trends.
4. Identify potential projects and improvements.
5. Analyze improvement projects and strategies.
6. Select and prioritize solutions.

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7. Publish and implement the corridor plan.
8. Monitor and evaluate progress.

In addition to sorely needed bicycle and pedestrian improvements, it is anticipated the planning effort will seek ways to promote the movement of people and goods, improve transit, and improve the resiliency of our transportation system. Both the SRTA and District 2 efforts will allow considerable input from all jurisdictions and stakeholders.

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 SHOPP funds and others may require additional grant funding through programs such as 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 with a detailed scope of work developed in consultation with the cities of Anderson and Redding, Shasta County, and Caltrans District 2. Planning activities would be complete by no later than Fall 2024.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may suggest ideas or scope modifications or withdraw the application.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Caltrans District 2 is applying for a Special Studies grant to help fund the SR-273 Comprehensive Corridor Plan. The work plan is written in collaboration with District 2 and will allow considerable input from local agencies and stakeholders on the project throughout the planning process.

/// The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) concurs with the staff recommendation. ///

FISCAL IMPACT:

The anticipated SR-273 Comprehensive Corridor Plan project budget is \$xxx,xxx. SRTA is asking for a Strategic Partnership grant award of \$xxx,xxx, which will require a local match of 20% that may be in the form of an eligible in-kind contribution, such as staff time. Caltrans District 2 is asking for a Special Studies grant of \$xxx,xxx. The scope of work and budgets are divided into two potentially standalone phases of the project should only one of the two grant applications be funded.

In anticipation of a possible grant award, Work Element 707.09 has been created in the FY 2021/22 OWP.

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/FOO>