

REPORT TO SHASTA COUNTY RTPA

SUBJECT	MEETING DATE	ITEM NUMBER
Blueprint Study Grant	7/25/06	6

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Agency authorize the Executive Officer to apply for a State Blueprint Planning Grant.

SUMMARY

A State Blueprint Planning Grant is available to the RTPA. State and federal agencies encourage Blueprint studies to better guide transportation investment decisions through enhanced agency and public collaboration. Blueprint studies are not yet mandated, but increasingly are a prerequisite of receiving state and federal transportation funds. It is recommended that the Agency pursue the grant.

DISCUSSION

Blueprint studies are encouraged by state and federal transportation agencies. We have prepared the attached "Blueprint Fact Sheet" to explain study goals and benefits as they relate to our region. The Caltrans "Regional Blueprint Planning Program" web page is also attached.

Blueprint studies are aimed at reducing congestion and improving the economy consistent with community needs. With the aid of computer models, quantifiable performance indicators for traffic congestion, public investment needs, and the economy are compared under different growth scenarios. The state and federal goals are ambitious; however, it is recognized that the Blueprint grants are a first step, not an end-all to our growth challenges.

Blueprint studies are increasingly becoming a condition for RTPAs to receive state and federal transportation funds. For example, the Governor's Strategic Growth Plan Bond package on the November ballot contains significant funding grants weighted to, or only available to, projects consistent with Blueprint studies. Guidelines for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) - the RTPA's only source of discretionary transportation road improvement funds - are also being revised to promote consistency with Blueprint studies. The state's Blueprint grant represents an excellent opportunity to fund this effort now, rather than later with our general planning funds.

Blueprint grant applications are due in October and will be awarded in December. It is expected that \$250,000 will be available to the RTPA in the first year with comparable amounts available in subsequent annual cycles. The funds are good for two years; work covered in the first grant must be completed by December 2008.

Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration are sponsoring a Blueprint workshop in Chico on August 9 (see attached cover letter and flyer). All RTPA agency members and alternates have been invited.

Caltrans also sponsored a three-part Blueprint Learning Network for which all Agency members were invited. Agency member Goekler attended the first meeting in Sacramento. Agency member Mathena will also attend the final two sessions. Any other Agency members are welcome to participate.

It is recommended that the Agency direct staff to prepare a State Blueprint Planning Grant application. If successful, a final work plan will be presented to the Agency for approval.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

A Blueprint Training workshop in Sacramento was attended by RTPA Agency member, Dean Goekler; Caltrans District 2 Director, Brian Crane; Redding Development Services Director, Jim Hamilton; Tehama County RTPA Executive Officer, Gary Antone; and Shasta RTPA Executive Officer, Dan Little.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has reviewed this item and supports the recommendation.

FINANCING

If approved, grant funds would need to be placed in the RTPA's Overall Work Program (OWP). Like other federal planning funds, a 20% match is required which can consist of in-kind services such as local agency and RTPA staff time (reimbursed by state planning funds). City and county staff time may also be reimbursed by the RTPA.

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Officer

DSL/jac

Attachments: Blueprint Fact Sheet
 Regional Blueprint Planning Letter and Workshop Flyer
 Caltrans' Blueprint Web Page

REPORT TO SHASTA COUNTY RTPA

SUBJECT	MEETING DATE	ITEM NUMBER
Authorization to Submit Shasta Area Regional Blueprint Plan	10/24/06	4-3

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Agency authorize the Executive Officer to submit the attached FY 06/07 Regional Blueprint grant application and execute all required documents pursuant to the attached resolution.

SUMMARY

At the July 25, 2006 RTPA meeting, the Agency authorized staff to prepare and submit a Regional Blueprint grant application for FY 06/07. The attached 'Shasta Area Regional Blueprint' grant application was submitted to Caltrans on October 2, 2006. The attached resolution is required before Caltrans submits recommended projects to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) in November.

DISCUSSION

The Regional Blueprint Planning Program is intended to better inform regional and local decision-making, through a broad-based and proactive public engagement process. With the help of innovative digital map-based forecasting technology, the Blueprint planning process will help generate a regional growth strategy.

A successfully completed Blueprint plan will enable the Shasta County RTPA to remain competitive for transportation funds. In addition, a Blueprint provides information critical to other efforts, such as environmental impact reports, capital improvement programs, redevelopment plans, the Regional Transportation Plan, and the traffic model.

Grant awards will be announced December 15, 2006. The Shasta County RTPA has applied for \$384,200 in grant funds. If awarded, staff will prepare an amendment to the Overall Work Program (OWP) to include the Blueprint planning project.

The attached Shasta County Blueprint fact sheet provides further information. Staff recommends approval of the attached resolution.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

The Blueprint process will require extensive involvement with a variety of agencies and entities, including Caltrans District 2 and various local agencies. Letters in support of the Blueprint planning process have been received from: City of Redding, City of Anderson, City of Shasta Lake, City of Red Bluff, City of Corning, Shasta County, Tehama County, the Tehama County Transportation Commission, and the McConnell Foundation.

FINANCING

If approved, grant funds would need to be placed in the RTPA's Overall Work Program (OWP). A minimum 20% local match is required which can consist of in-kind services such as local agency and RTPA staff time (reimbursed by state planning funds).

Grant applications with additional match will be more competitive. We can receive additional match credit for many city, county and RTPA activities currently planned over the next three years that would support or help to implement Blueprint goals. Examples include GIS data gathering, general plan updates, specific plans and transportation studies. Given these related planning activities, proposed match is conservatively estimated to nearly equal the \$384,200 requested.

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Officer

DW/jac

Attachment: Resolution 06-12
Shasta County Blueprint Fact Sheet
Blueprint Grant Application

REPORT TO SHASTA COUNTY RTPA

SUBJECT	MEETING DATE	ITEM NUMBER
Amendment #1 of the FY 2006/2007 Overall Work Program to include the Shasta Area Regional Blueprint Plan	12/12/06	6

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Agency add the Shasta Area Regional Blueprint Plan to the Overall Work Program (OWP) by approving Amendment #1 to the FY 2006/2007 Overall Work Program (OWP).

SUMMARY

Amendment #1 will add those tasks and corresponding funds necessary to complete the FY 2006/2007 portion of the Shasta Area Regional Blueprint Plan. The balance of the \$375,000 grant award will be reserved in our fund balance and recorded on our financial statements.

DISCUSSION

The California Regional Blueprint Planning Program is sponsored by the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency (BTH). The purpose of the grant program is to encourage a comprehensive planning process that will: 1) allow more informed regional and local decision-making; 2) proactively engage all segments of the population; and 3) foster consensus on a regional vision and preferred growth scenario.

As per Agency Resolution No. 06-12 dated October 24, 2006, the Shasta Area Regional Blueprint Plan grant application was submitted. In the attached letter from BTH dated November 30, 2006, it was announced that Shasta County RTPA was awarded \$375,000.

All grant recipients must have their projects programmed in an approved Overall Work Program, have their Overall Work Program Agreement encumbered by March 1, 2007, and complete their project by no later than December 31, 2008.

In order to satisfy grant program conditions and maximize the time available to complete the project, it is recommended that the Agency approve Amendment #1 to the FY 2006/2007 OWP. As amended, the OWP would include Blueprint related tasks to be completed during FY 2006/2007 and corresponding funds required to complete such tasks. Based on the attached Scope & Schedule of Work, it is anticipated that \$83,000 will be expended in FY 2006/2007.

ALTERNATIVES

The Agency may choose not to approve Amendment #1. This is not recommended because grant funds could not be encumbered and the Shasta Area Regional Blueprint Plan would not be funded.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

Blueprint planning is, by design and intent, a regional process requiring extensive involvement with a variety of agencies and entities representing local, county, state, and federal interests. Letters indicating support for and

a willingness to participate in the Blueprint planning process have been received from City of Redding, City of Anderson, City of Shasta Lake, City of Red Bluff, City of Corning, Shasta County, Tehama County, the Tehama County Transportation Commission, and the McConnell Foundation. In addition, state and federal agencies with intersecting interests and a stewardship in Shasta County will be asked to provide input, data, and other resources as needed.

FINANCING

A 20% local match is required, which will consist of in-kind services funded with state planning (PPM) funds.

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Officer

DTW/jac

Attachment: Resolution 06-15
 Blueprint Plan Scope and Schedule
 Letter of Award from Business, Transportation, & Housing Agency
 OWP Work Element