

City of Los Alamitos

Agenda Report Consent Calendar

May 4, 2009
Item No: 8C

To: Mayor Troy Edgar & Members of the City Council

Via: Nita McKay, Interim City Manager

From: Steven Mendoza, Community Development Director

Subject: Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Compass Blueprint Demonstration Project

Summary: Staff is seeking support from City Council to develop and submit an application to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for Compass Blueprint Demonstration Project studying the Los Alamitos Boulevard and Katella Avenue Corridors.

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2009-05, entitled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS, CALIFORNIA, PLEDGING COOPERATION AND SUPPORT FOR A SCAG COMPASS BLUEPRINT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT PROPOSAL."

Background

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is accepting Grant Applications for Demonstration Projects through its Compass Blueprint Program until May 15, 2009. In order to apply, grant applicants are required to provide a proposal that includes detail on the project location, including maps; scope of the overall project; scope of the planning assistance requested from Compass Blueprint; project timeline including anticipated start date for requested services; estimated cost of requested services; product(s) expected (e.g. written report, visual/video aids, plans, events, etc.) and how the project will assist the region in meeting the Compass Blueprint Principles of mobility, livability, prosperity.

The grant application also calls for an authorizing resolution from the local governing body and applicants are encouraged to also include a letter of support from appropriate sub-regional organizations.

At their April 13, 2009 meeting, the Planning Commission provided support for the development of an application and recommended that the City Council adopt the attached resolution.

Staff has identified the Los Alamitos Boulevard and Katella Avenue Corridors as a good candidate project for Compass funds, which are allocated on a competitive basis. If the City Council authorizes an application for funds for the Compass Blueprint Demonstration Project, staff will submit a proposal by the due date. If approved by SCAG, SCAG will contract with a Planning Firm to complete the project.

Discussion

City staff sees this opportunity as an excellent way to use monies other than General Fund money (other people's money) to study an important area of the City. Staff does not want to go in a direction that is contrary to the desires of the City Council, and therefore, is requesting support in allocating staff time to develop the application. Staff has forecasted an allotment of 25 hours of time devoted to the application and if awarded, it will take approximately three kick off meetings with the selected firm.

Obtaining planning and economic consultant services through the Compass Blueprint Grant Program would provide the City the resources to realize one of the Council's adopted Goals this year which was to "Pursue and analyze opportunities to increase revenue." Economic Development Element Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 and Land Use Element Goals 1 and Circulation and Transportation Element Goal 1 & 3 may also be achieved. The Compass Blueprint Demonstration Project Grant, if received, could help to accomplish those objectives. Staff has successfully applied for and has been awarded such a grant in a former community and has relationships with the SCAG staff to develop the application.

If the Council is supportive of staff seeking funds for the Compass Blueprint Demonstration Project, a grant application will be completed and submitted by May 15, 2009.

Fiscal Impact

There is no local match obligation to the City, all consultant time and materials are borne by SCAG.

Submitted By:

Approved By:

Steven A. Mendoza
Community Development Director

Nita McKay
Interim City Manager

Attachment: 1) Resolution 2009-05
 2) Compass Blueprint Brochure
 3) General Plan Goals