



CITY OF BURBANK
Community Development Department
STAFF REPORT

DATE: February 25, 2020

TO: Justin Hess, City Manager

FROM: Patrick Prescott, Community Development Director
VIA: David Kriske, Assistant Community Development Director, Transportation
BY: Roy Choi, Senior Planner, Transportation

SUBJECT: Adoption of a Resolution Approving a Funding Agreement Between the City of Burbank and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to Design and Construct the Chandler Bikeway Extension Project and Authorizing the Community Development Director to Execute Agreements

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BURBANK APPROVING A FUNDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BURBANK AND THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (METRO) TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT THE CHANDLER BIKEWAY EXTENSION PROJECT (ATTACHMENT 1) AND AUTHORIZING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS (ATTACHMENT 2).

BACKGROUND

In October 1999, City Council approved the final design of a four-mile Class-I bikeway and adjacent pedestrian path in the median of Chandler Boulevard. In 2004 when the City completed construction for the Chandler Bikeway, it was unable to complete the alignment of the bikeway from its current terminus, which left a gap in the bicycle path between Mariposa Street to Victory Boulevard and further east to the Burbank Metrolink Station.

Since the Chandler Bikeway opened in 2004, staff continued to seek multiple opportunities to extend the bikeway to Victory Boulevard and the Burbank Metrolink Station. In support of this effort, in 2013 the City Council earmarked \$10,000 to

investigate “closing the gap” in the Chandler Bikeway. These funds were used to conduct right-of-way research and develop conceptual bikeway alignments to route the bikeway between Mariposa Street and the Burbank Metrolink Station using a variety of City Street, private property, and railroad rights-of-way. Using these conceptual alignments, in 2013 the City applied for and was awarded a \$2.6 million Metro Call for Projects (CFP) grant to design and construct an extension of the Chandler Bikeway from the current terminus eastward to the Burbank Channel, where it would connect to the future San Fernando Bikeway.

Several alternatives have been analyzed to close the gap, the most direct path would involve constructing a bike path along the existing Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) rail spurs east of Victory Boulevard in order to accommodate the extension of the Chandler Bikeway, but pursuing this preferred option has been deemed unfeasible. Beyond Mariposa Street, UPRR currently maintains freight train operating rights on this segment of the existing railroad tracks to serve freight clients and to facilitate train movements for its freight operations along its Valley and Ventura lines.

Given the infeasibility of utilizing the remaining railroad right of way, staff has instead identified an alternative alignment to extend the existing Chandler Bikeway that does not involve interactions with Union Pacific. This was made possible by new, protected bikeway standards approved by Caltrans that allow protected, “8-to-80” bicycle facilities to be constructed on City streets. An “8-to-80” facility is one that allows users of all ages and abilities (or those from age 8 to age 80) to travel safely and protected from vehicle traffic. With ability of the bikeway to be extended on City streets, staff now recommends that the City move forward with design and construction of the Chandler Bikeway Extension.

DISCUSSION

The Chandler Bikeway Extension Project is identified as a Top Priority Project in the City of Burbank’s Bicycle Master Plan. This project would complete the remaining segment of the Class-I bikeway in the City of Burbank, which would also close the existing gap in the regional bikeway that extends from Chatsworth eastward to Burbank and then southward to Downtown Los Angeles and Long Beach (Attachment 3).

The limits for the Chandler Bikeway Extension Project are bound by Chandler Boulevard at Mariposa Street to the west and Cypress Avenue at the west-side of the Western Burbank Channel to the east, where it would connect to the future San Fernando Bikeway Project (Attachment 4). The San Fernando Bikeway Project is also funded through a separate Metro CFP grant and is currently in the design phase. The San Fernando Bikeway project has been on hold for several years due to delays in the adjacent Interstate 5 North HOV / Empire Interchange Project, but staff is working with Metro and Caltrans to resume this project as freeway construction near Empire Avenue is nearly complete.

Proposed Chandler Bikeway Extension Project Alignment

In securing grant funds for the project, staff has identified a preliminary project alignment to extend the existing bikeway from Mariposa Street east to the Downtown Burbank Metrolink Station in three segments. The segments of the Chandler Bikeway Extension are described as follows:

1. Chandler Blvd – from Mariposa St. to Lomita St.

This segment would extend the existing bikeway/sidewalk at Mariposa Street eastward to Lomita Street with a Class I bikeway along the north side of Chandler Boulevard within the remaining portion of the abandoned railroad right of way that is not used by freight trains. At Lomita Street, a crosswalk would be installed to facilitate a safe pedestrian and bicycle crossing from the north side of Chandler Boulevard to the sidewalk on the south side of Chandler Boulevard.

2. Chandler Blvd – from Lomita Street to Victory Blvd

This segment would require the widening of the existing parkway/sidewalk on south side of Chandler Boulevard to construct a Class I or Class IV raised protected bikeway to Victory Boulevard.

3. Victory Blvd to Cypress Avenue

This segment would require constructing a raised protected Class I or Class IV bikeway along Victory Boulevard from Chandler Boulevard south to Cypress Avenue. While located along a major arterial, the project would be constructed as a full protected, raised, separated Class IV protected bikeway offering protection from vehicle traffic that is comparable to the current Chandler Bikeway.

4. Cypress Avenue to Burbank Western Channel

This segment would require installing a new traffic signal at Victory Boulevard and Cypress Avenue to connect the bikeway from the north-west side of Victory Boulevard to the north-east side of Victory Boulevard and Cypress Avenue. At Cypress Avenue, the existing parkway/sidewalk on City right-of-way along the north side of Cypress Avenue would be widened and reconstructed to accommodate a Class I or Class IV bikeway from Victory Boulevard to N. Varney Street. Parking along the north side of Cypress Avenue would be removed to accommodate the bikeway.

In order to connect the bikeway from N. Varney Street to the west side of the Burbank Channel where it would connect to the future San Fernando Bikeway, the bikeway would extend eastward from the Cypress / Varney intersection using a

piece of City property located at the end of Cypress Avenue. City staff is currently investigating encroachments on this property that would need to be removed to accommodate the project.

From the Burbank Western Channel, a connection to the Downtown Burbank Metrolink Station will be provided by the future San Fernando Bikeway which would continue south on the west side of the Western Burbank Channel to the Downtown Burbank Metrolink Station, where the San Fernando Bikeway is planned to terminate.

Chandler Bikeway Extension Project Schedule

Should Council approve the funding agreement, the project is expected to take approximately four and one-half years to complete from preliminary design to final construction.

If the City Council chooses to accept Metro grant funds for the City of Burbank's Chandler Bikeway Extension Project, the proposed Resolution will approve the Funding Agreement and authorize the Community Development Director or Director's designee to execute grant and funding agreements with Metro and Caltrans needed to secure the grant funds. It also authorizes staff to procure an engineering design consultant to begin design and environmental review through a competitive procurement process. Staff plans to return to the City Council in 12 months to approve the final project alignment.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total project cost of the Chandler Bikeway Extension Project has been estimated at \$3,299,105 of which 80 percent or \$2,639,284 will be provided by federal funds provided by Metro through the 2013 Metro Call For Projects. The remaining 20 percent or \$659,821 in local match funding will be funded by Metro Measure R Highway Operations Improvements funds.

At this time, \$985,068 in Transportation Development Impact Fees has already been budgeted for the project to front the grant funds. These funds have previously been budgeted in project account 127.CD33A.70002.0000.22702 (Public Improvements, Transportation, Street Improvements, Chandler Bikeway Extension). In FY 21/22, staff will request that Council appropriate the remaining \$2,314,037 for construction.

CONCLUSION

Once constructed, the Chandler Bikeway Extension Project will provide a safe, "8-to-80" facility that will provide access and seamless connectivity for pedestrians and bicycles of all ages and abilities from its current terminus at Chandler Boulevard and Mariposa Street east to the Downtown Burbank Metrolink Station. By connecting to other projects currently planned or in construction, this project would close a critical gap in the City's

local high-quality protected bicycle network and the regional bikeway system of bike paths extending from Chatsworth to Long Beach.

Given the importance of this critical connection, staff recommends that the City Council adopt the proposed Resolution approving a Funding Agreement between the City of Burbank and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to design and construct the Chandler Bikeway Extension Project and authorizing the Community Development Director to execute Agreements.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – A Resolution of the Council of the City of Burbank Approving a Funding Agreement Between the City of Burbank and The Los Angeles County Transportation Authority (Metro) to Design and Construct the Chandler Bikeway Extension Project and Authorizing the Community Development Director to Execute Agreements
- Attachment 2 – Funding Agreement Between the City of Burbank and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- Attachment 3 – Map of Los Angeles County Regional Bicycle Network Gaps
- Attachment 4 – Chandler Bikeway Extension Project Proposed Alignment