



City of Santa Barbara Neighborhood Advisory Council Staff Report

DATE: November 11, 2015

TO: Neighborhood Advisory Council

FROM: Browning Allen, Transportation Manager and Chair of the
Neighborhood Improvement Task Force 

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Community Development Block Grant Funds
and Fiscal Year 2016 General Fund Monies

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC):

- A. Support the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force staff recommendation to apply for two Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for the New Playground and Pedestrian Improvement Project at the Municipal Tennis Center and Old Coast Highway and the Westside Access Ramps Project; and
- B. Support the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force staff recommendations for projects to design with General Fund resources for Fiscal Year 2016.

BACKGROUND:

At the August 12, 2015 Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) meeting, the City's Neighborhood Improvement Task Force (NITF) presented the City Council approved Neighborhood Improvement Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2016-2021. At the same meeting, NITF staff also discussed potential projects for the NAC to consider for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 CDBG grant cycle and projects to design in Fiscal Year 2016 with General Fund resources. On September 9, 2015, the NAC held a follow-up meeting to further discuss capital projects and requested staff provide project priorities over a multi-year period. Since September, the NITF capital team refined project scopes, budgets, and schedules for the NAC to consider.

DISCUSSION:

Fiscal Year 2016-2017 CDBG Grant Cycle

There is \$575,874 available this year in Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds. The NITF staff recommends that the NAC support two CDBG

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grant applications for the New Playground and Pedestrian Improvement Project at the Municipal Tennis Center and Old Coast Highway and the Westside Access Ramps Project.

New Playground and Pedestrian Improvement Project at the Municipal Tennis Center and Old Coast Highway

NITF's priority project this year is located at the Municipal Tennis Center at 1414 Park Place.

The Project is composed of two major components: 1) a new playground and site improvements at the Municipal Tennis Center, and 2) pedestrian safety improvements at Park Place and Old Coast Highway. The specific elements of the project are a combination of Park/Facility Safety Improvements and ADA Pedestrian Improvements identified in the Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Neighborhood Improvement Capital Program. City staff prioritized the Project because it will provide new recreation opportunities for youth and their families in an area of the City that has relatively few playground and recreational facilities. The closest play facilities are more than a mile away and the Tennis Center is often used as a play area by resident children. The Project will also improve pedestrian safety and access to the new playground and recreational facility. The Project area was also recently included in a CDBG-eligible portion of the City, due to updated census and mapping efforts.

The Project involves:

- Installation of a new 2,800 square foot playground for 5-12 year old children and a swing for infants.
- Installation of site amenities, including playground fencing and safe playground surface material, benches, trash and recycling cans, and signage.
- New trees to buffer the area and reduce noise from US 101.
- Site safety improvements, including removing the exterior block wall screening at both restrooms, installation of wall sconces and two pole lights near the playground, and a new swing gate at the park entrance.
- Onsite and offsite pedestrian safety improvements, including:
 - A new path to connect the new playground to sidewalks at Old Coast Highway.
 - Bringing the parking lot into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
 - Installation of a sidewalk adjacent to the large multifamily residences directly across from the Municipal Tennis Center.
 - Installation of curb extensions to shorten the distance for pedestrians crossing the street and to improve sight line visibility for drivers to see pedestrians.
 - Installation of rectangular rapid flashing beacons to alert drivers of pedestrian presence and improve driver yielding, and crosswalk illumination to increase visibility of pedestrians.

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City staff also prioritized the Project to capitalize on other funds that are either currently available or will potentially be available soon. Specifically, the City applied for an \$80,000 grant to fund the playground equipment. The City's General Fund is providing an additional \$42,000 for ADA improvements and the NITF staff are requesting the NAC support an additional \$25,000 for survey and design for the offsite pedestrian safety improvements. The Project shortfall is \$415,000 for playground fencing and safe playground surface material, benches, lighting, and offsite pedestrian safety improvements across Old Coast Highway connecting to the new walking path that leads to the new playground. Project design and permitting will be complete in 2016. If the grant is awarded, the project would be ready for construction in 2017.

The proposed Project was reviewed at a neighborhood meeting in June 2015, two Historic Landmarks Commission meetings in July and September 2015, and at a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting in September 2015. Parks and Recreation Commissioners supported the project and commented that pedestrian access to the site should be improved. The proposed Project addresses those concerns by integrating the aforementioned pedestrian safety components.

Westside Access Ramps

The NITF's second priority project this year is the Westside Access Ramps Project. On April 7, 2015, City Council approved CDBG funding in the amount of \$195,000 for the Westside Access Ramp Project. The goal of the Project is to provide accessible paths of travel to public facilities and schools through the construction of ADA access ramps (curb cuts) at priority intersections within the Westside neighborhood. The proposed 24 ramps would be along San Pascual Street and Sunset Avenue between Pedregosa and Micheltorena Streets. These intersections are a few blocks from Harding University Partnership School, La Cumbre Junior High School, Bohnett Park, Santa Barbara Boys and Girls Club, and one block from transit. Most children, where the ramps are proposed, use transit to get to Adams Elementary School. Once these ramps are constructed, vulnerable users (i.e. disabled, elderly, and pedestrians with strollers) will no longer be forced to walk into the street until there is a driveway or an access ramp to which they can safely navigate.

The original funding request was for \$240,000 to construct 24 ramps along San Pascual Street and Sunset Avenue between Pedregosa and Arrellaga Streets. The Project went out to bid and all of the 16 ramps along San Pascual can be constructed, along with two additional ramps at the intersection of Pedegosa and San Pascual. Given the updated engineering constructions costs, the NITF recommends \$166,000 for the CDBG grant application towards construction of the remaining access ramps along Sunset Avenue.

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The proposed grant application amounts are summarized in the following table:

CDBG FY 2016-2017: NITF Recommendations for Construction	Proposed Grant Amount
New Playground and Pedestrian Improvement Project at the Municipal Tennis Center and Old Coast Highway	\$415,000
Westside Access Ramps	\$166,000
Subtotal	\$581,000

Recommended Projects for Design Fiscal Year 2016-2017

On July 1, 2015, \$100,000 of General Fund resources became available to go towards the design of projects listed in the Neighborhood Improvement CIP. NITF staff recommends the NAC consider design of the following projects using these funds:

General Fund FY 2016-2017: NITF Recommendations for Design	Proposed Amount
New Playground and Pedestrian Improvement Project at the Municipal Tennis Center and Old Coast Highway	\$35,000
Euclid Avenue Sidewalk	\$30,000
Westside Access Ramps	\$20,000
Westside Breezeway Restroom Design	\$15,000
Subtotal	\$100,000

Recommended Projects for Future Funding

The following table summarizes potential future recommended projects for Fiscal Years 2017-2022. The projects listed are from the Neighborhood Improvement CIP for Fiscal Years 2016-2021.

CDBG FY 2017-2018: NITF Recommendations for Construction	Proposed Grant Amount
Euclid Avenue Sidewalk (Phase 1 of 3)	\$219,000
Westside Center Breezeway Restroom	TBD
Subtotal	TBD

General Fund FY 2017-2018: NITF Recommendations for Design	Proposed Amount
Alamar Avenue Sidewalk and Access Ramps Project (vicinity of Oak Park)	\$70,000
Franklin Center Exterior Improvements	\$30,000
Subtotal	\$100,000

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CDBG FY 2018-2019: NITF Recommendations	Cost
Euclid Avenue Sidewalk (Phase 2 of 3)	\$219,000
Louise Lowry Davis Center Safety and Enhancements Project (Phase 1)	TBD
Westside Center Breezeway Restroom Design	TBD
Franklin Center Exterior Improvements	TBD
Subtotal	TBD
CDBG FY 2019-2020: NITF Recommendations	Cost
Euclid Avenue Sidewalk (Phase 3 of 3)	\$219,000
Alamar Avenue Sidewalk and Access Ramps Project (Phase 1 of 3)	\$200,000
Louise Lowry Davis Center Safety and Enhancements Project (Phase 2)	TBD
Subtotal	\$419,000
CDBG FY 2020-2021: NITF Recommendations	Cost
Alamar Avenue Sidewalk and Access Ramps Project (Phase 2 of 3)	\$200,000
Fencing Around Ortega Park Ball field dug out and back stop	\$75,000
Union Pacific Railroad Corridor Fencing (Phase 1 of 2)	\$100,000
Subtotal	\$375,000
CDBG FY 2021-2022: NITF Recommendations	Cost
Alamar Avenue Sidewalk and Access Ramps Project (Phase 3 of 3)	\$200,000
Union Pacific Railroad Corridor Fencing (Phase 2 of 2)	\$100,000
Subtotal	\$300,000

JWG/mj

cc: Jill E. Zachary, Acting Parks and Recreation Director