

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: February 7, 2007

SUBJECT: Annual 2008 Transportation Appropriations Bill – Candidate Projects

SUMMARY

Each year, at the discretion of Congress, federal funding may be allocated for projects listed in the legislative conference report as part of the annual federal transportation appropriations bill process. The annual appropriation bill funding is typically allocated for smaller projects (up to \$500,000) that serve a transportation need, has widespread community support and can move to construction within a year. Normally in January of each year congress members request a list of projects that can to be considered in the annual appropriations bill, which is normally approved in November.

SLOCOG staff historically has worked with the local congressional district staff representatives to identify projects eligible for such funding. The attached list of 14 candidate projects includes 7 projects located in Congressman Capp's 23rd Congressional District and 7 projects in Congressman McCarthy's 22nd Congressional District. These projects were submitted and reviewed by member agency staff. They are being brought forward for Board ratification and submittal as part of the 2006 Appropriations Bill process. Historically SLOCOG has received funding for 1-2 projects per year at the discretion of the congress member. Last year, funding for ear marks did not occur in the 2007 Appropriations Bill. SBCAG has also requested the SLOCOG Board support a much larger request for operational and safety improvements on SR 166 per the 166 Highway Safety Task Force (SBCAG staff report attached).

RECOMMENDATION

Staff: Ratify attached candidate project list for 2008 Transportation Appropriations funding consideration and forward legislative representatives

TTAC: Concur

CTAC: Concur

DISCUSSION

Table A provides a listing of projects eligible for federal demonstration funding through the 2008 Federal Transportation Appropriations process. Each of these projects has local support and is consistent with local plans and programs and must be able to move forward toward construction in either fiscal year 07/08 or 08/09. (See Attachment A for a more detailed description of each of these projects). Attachment B is a listing of projects that sought earmark funds in 2007 but were funded using other revenue sources.

Table A

Community	Project Name	Amt.
Atascadero	Stadium Park Access and Entrance Improvements	\$400,000
Atascadero	Atascadero Lake Park/Morro Road Enhancements Improvements	\$400,000
SLO Co. (Santa Margarita)	Community Enhancements	\$350,000
SLO Co. (Shandon)	Route 41 over San Juan Creek - Safe Route to School Improvements	\$500,000
Paso Robles	South River Road Bike path	\$500,000
Arroyo Grande	Extend Creek walk Ph IV	\$450,000
Grover Beach	Grand Ave. Traffic Improvements, Phase III	\$500,000
Pismo Beach	Beach Promenade (Phase IV) - Underfunded portion	\$500,000
Pismo Beach	Beachcomber-Beach Access Stairs	\$400,000
San Luis Obispo	Rail Road Safety Trail (Phase V)	\$500,000
SLO Co. (Nipomo)	Price Street (Safe Routes to School) Improvements	\$200,000
Regional Transit Authority	Rehabilitate Bus and convert engine to gas/hybrid	\$375,000
SR 166 Safety Improvements	Construct safety and operational improvements on SR 166	\$3,000,000

Attachment A
Candidate Federal Demonstration Projects

Submitted to the Honorable Congressmembers Lois Capps & Kevin McCarthy

(This list does not reflect a priority order)

District 22 (Congressmember McCarthy)

- 1 City of Atascadero – Stadium Park Access and Entrance Improvements \$400,000**
This project includes the purchase of property near the Stadium Park entrance and improvement of access, parking, open space and landscaping. The Park is located off Capistrano Ave. under State Route 41. This project would also enhance emergency response to the site through improved access; an important enhancement especially when events are being held at the park and public usage is high. (McCarthy)
- 2. City of Atascadero – Atascadero Lake Park/Morro Road Enhancements Imps. \$400,000**
The City of Atascadero would create a landscaped pedestrian pathway and bike lane along Morro Road (St. Rte 41) from Portola Ave to Pismo Ave. Currently, there is an informal path being used by pedestrians and cyclists traveling along this corridor or accessing the City's Zoo or Lake Park. The Improved path would connect to the Atascadero Lake walk and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. (McCarthy)
- 3. SLO County, Community of Santa Margarita – Community Enhancements \$350,000**
Construct a safe-route-to-school project benefiting primarily elementary school children but also general pedestrian safety. A new crossing in the town of Santa Margarita, on State Highway 58, to include bulb-outs, 4-way crossing painted cross walks, signage for traffic calming and a portion of sidewalks at Encina Avenue. State Rte. 58 also serves as a main street through this community and a history of safety issues caused by high speeds through town and a lack of pedestrian facilities creates the need to improve the intersection at 58 and Encina as it is a main crossing for elementary school aged children. (McCarthy)
- 4. SLO County, Community of Shandon - Safe Route to School Impr. \$500,000**
Safe Routes to School for Shandon. Project would be \$500,000 to add sidewalks to Route 41 bridge over San Juan Creek which would serve foot traffic between new residential homes to the elementary and high school as well as park/library. Work would be done inconjunction with Caltrans Bridge rehabilitation project.
- 5. City of Paso Robles – South River Road Bike path \$500,000**
Construct a separated, Class I multi-use path adjacent to the Salinas River, greatly improving north-south access within the city. Additional funding is needed to leverage recent SLOCOG programmed funding of \$500,000. (McCarthy)
- 6. City of Arroyo Grande – Extend Creek walk Ph IV \$450,000**
Design and construct the fourth phase of the City's overall Creekside Pedestrian Walkway Project. This project will allow creekside pedestrian usage through historic sites and riparian habitats. The project will enhance the creek and promote a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere in and around Arroyo Grande Creek and within the City's historic Village area. The Creekside Walk project will allow people to stroll from site to site, or sit and enjoy the creekside environment. While being enhanced as a series of significant public spaces, the creek can be retained and restored to a valuable natural resource. In addition to the pedestrian improvements, the project will also include placement of trash receptacles and benches, storm drain improvements, planting and irrigation. (McCarthy)

District 23 (Congressmember Capps)

- 7. City of Grover Beach - Grand Ave. Traffic Improvements \$500,000**
Construct next phase extending traffic, pedestrian, and cyclist safety improvements on Grand Avenue in the City of Grover Beach, including: landscaped medians; street bulb-outs; intersection and sidewalk accent paving; mid-block pedestrian crossings lights; and storm water drainage. (Capps). Congress Member Capps secured \$300K in the 2005 appropriation bill towards the above improvements. This would assist in extending the ultimate improvements from Oak Park to Highway 1. This is a high-priority project for the City with significant funding contributions from the City and \$900k from SLOCOG. (Capps)

- 8. City of Pismo Beach - Promenade (Phase IV) \$500,000**
 Project funding would supplement programmed funds to extend boardwalk to Main Street. Congresswoman Capps secured \$351,000 in 1999 to go toward the Addie St. (Pismo Beach) to Grand Ave. (Grover Beach) section. This project will construct Phase IV of the Pismo Beach Promenade on the north side of the Pismo Pier to Main Street. The Promenade is a very popular attraction for visitors and residents of the South County and the region. The design phase for this project is completed and a partial improvement is scheduled for construction in the Spring of 2006. This is a high priority project for SLOCOG which has programmed \$1000k of TEA funds to construct a usable segment of the Phase iv portion of the overall project. Additional funding is needed to leverage recent SLOCOG programmed funding. (Capps)
- 9. City of Pismo Beach - Beachcomber-Beach Access Stairs \$400,000**
 The purpose of the stairway is to provide beach access to pedestrians from the bluff top, located adjacent to Beachcomber Park. Beachcomber Park is part of the bluff top pedestrian trail system and the park is a linear turfed park. The bluff is approximately 50 feet high. The total cost of the project is approximately \$500,000 and the City's local matching funds amount to approximately \$270,000 and interest is being earned which will increase this matching amount. The construction will consist of a wooden walk way with wooden railings. The under structure will be stainless steel, to resist the marine environment. Concrete piers will support the structure. Plans, specifications and contract documents are completed and all permits are obtained. The project is "shelf ready" and can be bid and constructed on short notice. (Capps)
- 10 City of SLO – Rail Road Safety Trail (Phase V) \$500,000**
 Construct a Class I path (approximately one quarter mile in length) on City property for cyclists and pedestrians parallel to California Boulevard between Foothill Boulevard and Hathway Street. The path will have a paved width of 12 feet (3.6 meters) with a two-foot wide shoulder on each side. A low rail fence will separate the path from the adjoining Union Pacific Railroad right of way. An 8-10 foot high security fence will be located on the other side of the railroad tracks to discourage pedestrians from crossing the tracks at unauthorized locations. The typical distance from the centerline of the nearest railroad tracks to the edge of the rail fence is approximately 50 feet (15.2 meters). This segment is the fifth phase of a Class 1 path traveling through the City and connecting to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo University campus. (Capps)
- 11 Nipomo - Price Street (Safe Route to School) \$200,000**
 Pedestrian Improvement for sidewalk to Nipomo Elementary School in Olde Towne Nipomo section of town. Would also install in-pavement crosswalk flashing system for crossing Thompson Avenue. High volumes of walking students in area but missing this key path to keep students from walking in street. (Capps)
- 12 Regional Transit Authority \$375,000**
 Rehabilitate and upgrade a Bus to an Electric/Hybrid. (Capps)

- 13. State Route 166 Safety Improvements \$3,000,000**
- A Route 166 Highway Safety Task Force has re-formed to deal with the recent spate of fatalities on the highway. The Task Force consists of CHP, Caltrans, city of SM fire dept., county fire departments from both counties, SB County sheriff's dept., SBCAG, SLOCOG, Supervisor Joe Centeno's office, and reps from State Senator Maldonado's and State Assemblyman Sam Blakslee's office. Among other things, the CHP is pursuing a state grant to increase patrols and Caltrans is looking at adding turn lanes in parts of the corridor. Appropriations funds are being sought to construct safety improvements as defined by the Highway Safety Task Force. The unfunded safety and operational components as defined in the SR 166 PSR will be considered. This project will be jointly submitted between Santa Barbara County Association of Governments and SLOCOG. (McCarthy)

Attachment B
2007 Candidate Federal Demonstration Projects
Funded with other Revenue Sources

- 9. San Luis Obispo County (Gen Services) – Bob Jones Bike Path** **\$500,000**
 This project provides for the design and construction of a “Class I” “Sea to City” Bike path. This is one part of a comprehensive plan to build an 8-mile multi-use trail corridor from Avila Beach to the City of San Luis Obispo. A recently completed section (approx. 3 miles) between Highway 101 at Ontario Rd. and Avila Beach is very well used and popular. The further development of this bike/pedestrian corridor between the **project funded by SLOCOG April 06, may need additional funds in two more fiscal years** (the county) has received strong support as the top regional bike project in the county. There are three buildable segments between Ontario Rd. and Octagon barn. Congresswoman Capps secured \$500k in 2003 for a phase within the southern section of the City of San Luis Obispo. This is a high priority project for SLOCOG and the County with \$1M programmed by SLOCOG for the next phase. (Capps)
- 10. City of Morro Bay - Waterfront Boardwalk** **\$ 500,000**
 Install pedestrian/bicycle facilities along the waterfront between Beach Street and Morro Rock. This funding would supplement \$1.2M already programmed for bikeways, benches, lighting, educational/interpretive **project funded by SLOCOG April 06** portion of the existing road to provide separation of vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. The project has very significant support from the city, region and state. It is a high priority project for SLOCOG which has programmed an additional \$900k for the next segment. (Capps)
- 11. City of Pismo Beach - Promenade (Phase IV)** **\$500,000**
 Project funding would supplement programmed funds to extend boardwalk to Main Street. Congresswoman Capps secured \$351,000 in 1999 to go toward the Addie St. (Pismo Beach) to Grand Ave. (Grover Beach) **project funded by SLOCOG April 06. Still underfunded. Strong candidate for Prop 84 funding through Coastal Conservancy.** on the north side of the boardwalk. The project has strong support from visitors and residents of the South County and the region. The design phase for this project is completed and a partial improvement is scheduled for construction in the Spring of 2006. This is a high priority project for SLOCOG which has programmed \$600k of TEA funds to construct a usable segment of the Phase IV portion of the overall project. (Capps)
- 12. City of Arroyo Grande – SR 227/AG Village Streetscape Improvements** **\$500,000**
 The proposed project - between Traffic Way and Mason Street - will include bulb-outs; pedestrian crossings; advanced crosswalks; pedestrian safety features; and landscaping. This project will enhance the overall character of the Village, improve traffic flow, and **project funded by SLOCOG in April 06 for FY06/07** maintain and improve traffic flow, and provide beautification in an area with economic strength and potential without high cost items such as roadway reconstruction or widening. Promoting pedestrian usage through the Village will be a boost to the economy as people frequent the businesses more, and less vehicle usage will reduce emissions. E. Branch Street is a regional destination, and is designated as Route 227 under the control of Caltrans. (Capps)
- 13. City of Paso Robles – South River Road Bike path** **\$500,000**
 Construct a separated, Class I multi-use path adjacent to the Salinas River, greatly improving north-south access with **project funded by SLOCOG December 06 for FY 10/11**