

Memorandum

To: Chairman and Commissioners

Date: May 14, 2001

From: Robert I. Remen

**File No:
Book Item 2.1d
Action**

Ref: Project Application Amendment for the City of Arroyo Grande's Paulding Middle School Bicycle Lane Project

Issue:

Should the Commission approve the City of Arroyo Grande's amended Proposition 116 Non-Urban Counties Program application for the City's Paulding Middle School Bicycle project? The City proposes a new bicycle route alignment that would delete the bridge construction over the Arroyo Grande Creek. There's no change to the project cost.

Recommendation:

Commission staff has reviewed the amended Proposition 116 application, as well as subsequent clarifications that appear to meet all basic requirements specified in Proposition 116, as well as the Commission's policies and guidelines. Staff recommends that the Commission approve the attached resolution, which would grant approval of the City of Arroyo Grande's amended application to delete the bridge construction over the Arroyo Grande Creek and change the bike path alignment.

Background:

Proposition 116 in PUC Section 99628 authorizes \$73,000,000 for allocation by the Commission on a per capita basis to 28 Non-Urban Counties for railroad grade crossing improvements, acquisition of railroad rights-of-way for rail transportation purposes, rail passenger or other rail stations, railroad sound walls, and other local rail improvements for safety; purchase of paratransit vehicles; and other capital facilities for public transportation, such as bicycle facilities and paths for bicycle commuters. The County of San Luis Obispo's per capita amount is \$10,122,538, which the County has programmed \$2,396,205 to transit, \$3,032,462 to rail and \$4,693,871 to bike projects. The City of Arroyo Grande was programmed \$429,170 for two bicycle projects.

In October 1994, the Commission approved PA-94-22 for the City of Arroyo Grande's Paulding Middle School Bicycle Lane project in the amount of \$222,760 in Proposition 116 Non-Urban Counties Bond funds to construct a Class II bikeway on Huasna Road, a bike bridge across Arroyo Grande Creek and a Class III bikeway (a signed route for shared use with pedestrians or motor vehicle travel) to Arroyo Grande High School, which ends at Fair Oaks Avenue.

In April 2001, the City submitted an amended application request to alter a portion of the alignment linking the intersections of Traffic Way and Fair Oaks Avenue to East Branch Street and Huasna Road in Arroyo Grande. The first phase connecting the intersection of East Branch Street and Huasna Road to the east city limits has been completed. The remaining new alignment will be Class III bikeway. After further investigation the City determined that construction of a bridge over the Arroyo Grande Creek would have been well beyond the project budget limits, which would require the City to find additional funding. If the funding could not have been procured

Chairman and Commissioners

May 14, 2001

Page 2

then the bikeway would not be connected. Also, the City determined that using Allen Street, a City-designated Truck Route, is not a favorable street for bicyclist and prefer the alternate alignment.

Approval of the attached resolution amending the City of Arroyo Grande's Paulding Middle School Bicycle Lane project will alter the original alignment by linking the intersections of Traffic Way and Fair Oaks Avenue to East Branch Street and Huasna Road, thereby, eliminating the need to construct a bridge. There has been no change to the Proposition 116 Non-Urban Counties funds on the project.

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Commission Project Application Approval Amendment
Proposition 116 Non-Urban Counties Program
Applications for Bicycle Facilities
City of Arroyo Grande
Paulding Middle School Bicycle Lane Project

Resolution PA-01-

Amending PA-94-22

- 1.1 WHEREAS, in June 1990 the voters approved Proposition 116, the Clean Air and Transportation Improvement Act, for \$1.99 billion for rail and mass transportation purposes; and
- 1.2 WHEREAS, the California Transportation Commission is designated in Proposition 116 to oversee the five grant programs over the 20-year term of the Proposition; and
- 1.3 WHEREAS, Proposition 116 calls for the Commission to establish an application process and to develop and adopt guidelines to implement those programs; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS, Proposition 116 establishes as a purpose of the application process that it "facilitate implementation of improved cost-effective transit service to the maximum number of Californians and to prevent the funds provided for by this part from being spent on needlessly costly features"; and
- 1.5 WHEREAS, Proposition 116 requires applications to specify full and complete capital plans, financial plans, and operating plans, including schedules and funding sources; and
- 1.6 WHEREAS, the financial plans include a back-up funding plan, should the project exceed the cost approved by the Commission the increased cost shall be covered by funds other than Proposition 116; and
- 1.7 WHEREAS, in August 1992 the Commission adopted the Bicycle Program Guidelines #G-91-4 for the Proposition 116 bicycle program; and
- 1.8 WHEREAS, Proposition 116 (PUC Section 99628) specifies that \$73 million shall be allocated on a per capita basis to the transportation planning agencies having jurisdiction in the 28 non-urban counties for bicycle, pedestrian, and transit projects; and
- 1.9 WHEREAS, the bicycle program guidelines require applicants to submit complete applications for bicycle projects; and
- 1.10 WHEREAS, the transportation planning agency for the City of Arroyo Grande is the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments; and

- 1.11 WHEREAS, the Proposition 116 Non-Urban County Program Guidelines allow a regional transportation planning agency to transfer its applicant status to another local agency that accepts the rights and responsibilities to implement and deliver the project; and
- 1.12 WHEREAS, the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments by resolution transferred its applicant status to the City of Arroyo Grande and the City of Arroyo Grande by resolution accepted the transfer of applicant status with its attendant rights and obligations under the Commission's Proposition 116 Non-Urban County Transit Policies and Guidelines; and
- 1.13 WHEREAS, in October 1994, the Commission approved PA-94-22 for the City of Arroyo Grande for the Paulding Middle School Bicycle Lane project, which would construct a Class II bikeway on Huasna Road, a bike bridge across Arroyo Grande Creek and a Class III bikeway to the High School totaling \$222,760 in Proposition 116 Non-Urban County Bond; and
- 1.14 WHEREAS, in April 2001, the City of Arroyo Grande submitted an amended Proposition 116 application for its Paulding Middle School Bicycle Lane project to alter the alignment of the bike lane to delete the bridge element of the project; and
- 1.15 WHEREAS, Commission staff, has reviewed the Proposition 116 Non-Urban County Program bicycle application and has determined that the appropriate planning has occurred in the development of the project and that the project and application comply with the bicycle program guidelines; and
- 2.1 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby approves the amended Proposition 116 Non-Urban County project application from the City of Arroyo Grande totaling \$222,760 in Proposition 116 funds; and
- 2.2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Proposition 116 project approval by the Commission reserves the State funding within the Program, and allows project development work to be undertaken by the applicant agency, which will be subject to state reimbursement pursuant to the Commission's "Guidelines for Allocating, Monitoring, and Auditing Funds for Local Assistance Projects" and subsequent fund transfer agreement.