

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 16-17, 2016

Reference No.: 2.2c.(6)

Action

PINK REPLACEMENT ITEM

From: WILL KEMPTON
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO
BICYCLE PLAN PROJECT (RESOLUTION E-16-17)**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), Findings of Significant Impact, Statement of Overriding Considerations and the modified CEQA findings for the San Francisco Bicycle Plan Project (Project) in San Francisco County for future consideration of funding?

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission accept the FEIR, Findings of Significant Impact, Statement of Overriding Considerations and the modified CEQA findings for future consideration of funding.

BACKGROUND:

The San Francisco Planning Department (City) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency for the project. The proposed project involves near-term, long-term and minor bicycle improvement projects with the following goals: 1) refine and expand the existing bicycle route network; 2) ensure plentiful, high-quality bicycle parking to complement the bicycle route network; 3) expand bicycle access to transit and bridges; 4) educate the public about bicycle safety; 5) improve bicycle safety through targeted enforcement; 6) promote and encourage safe bicycling; 7) adopt bicycle-friendly practices and policies; and, 8) prioritize and increase bicycle funding.

On June 26, 2009, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board of Directors adopted the 2009 Bicycle Plan and findings under CEQA, including a Statement of Overriding Considerations and a mitigation monitoring reporting program. On April 30, 2013 the SFMTA adopted modified findings under CEQA and re-adopted the 2009 Bicycle Plan and reapproved traffic modifications.

On February 1, 2016, the San Francisco Planning Department approved and certified the FEIR, the Findings of Significant Impact, the Statement of Overriding Considerations and the modified CEQA findings for the project. The Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) determined that impacts related to the physical environment, worsening of traffic levels-of-service, potential

slowing of transit movement in the city and the potential reduction of truck loading spaces would be significant and unavoidable.

The City found that there were several benefits that outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects of the project. These benefits include overriding economic, legal, social and technological considerations that outweigh the identified significant effects on the environment. The project will essentially help fulfill San Francisco's Transit First Policy mandate as set forth in the San Francisco Charter, Section 81.115, to make bicycling an attractive alternative to travel by private automobile, and to promote bicycling by encouraging safe streets for riding, convenient access to transit, bicycle lanes and secure bicycle parking.

Attachment

- Resolution E-16-17
- Project Location
- Statement of Overriding Considerations

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 04– San Francisco County Resolution E-16-17

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City and County of San Francisco has completed a Final Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- San Francisco Bicycle Plan Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City and County of San Francisco has certified that the Final Environmental Impact Report was completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project involves near-term, long-term and minor bicycle improvement projects with the following goals: 1) refine and expand the existing bicycle route network; 2) ensure plentiful, high-quality bicycle parking to complement the bicycle route network; 3) expand bicycle access to transit and bridges; 4) educate the public about bicycle safety; 5) improve bicycle safety through targeted enforcement; 6) promote and encourage safe bicycling; 7) adopt bicycle-friendly practices and policies; and, 8) prioritize and increase bicycle funding; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Environmental Impact Report; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, Findings of Fact made pursuant to CEQA Guidelines indicate that specific unavoidable significant impacts related to the physical environment, worsening of traffic levels-of-service, potential slowing of transit movement in the city and the potential reduction of truck loading spaces would be significant and unavoidable and the cumulative effects make it infeasible to avoid or fully mitigate to a less than significant level the effects associated with the project; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the City of San Francisco and County of San Francisco adopted a Statement of Overriding Considerations for the project finding that the project benefits outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects; and
- 1.7 **WHEREAS**, the City of San Francisco and County of San Francisco adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the project; and
- 1.8 **WHEREAS**, the above significant effects are acceptable when balanced against the facts as set forth in the Statement of Overriding Considerations.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Final Environmental Impact Report, Findings of Fact, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Addendum and approves the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.