



CITY OF LEMON GROVE

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item No. 1.D
Meeting Date: April 1, 2025
Submitted to: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
Department: Public Works
Staff Contact: Izzy Murguia, Public Works Director
imurguia@lemongrove.ca.gov
Item Title: **Authorizing an Application for San Diego Association of Government's (SANDAG) Smart Growth Incentive Program (SGIP)**

Recommended Action: It is recommended that the City Council adopt a Resolution (**Attachment A**) to authorize the City Manager to submit a grant application for San Diego Association of Government's (SANDAG) Smart Growth Incentive Program (SGIP) for the Broadway and Sweetwater Road intersection improvements and a regional bikeway corridor study in the amount of \$4,134,500, and authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary application and funding documents.

Summary: The *TransNet* Extension Ordinance provides funding to support local jurisdictions' efforts to increase walking, biking, and transit usage throughout the region. Staff seeks approval to submit an application for SANDAG's Smart Growth Incentive Program (SGIP) for improvements to the Broadway and Sweetwater Road intersection and to conduct a regional bikeway corridor study.

Discussion: SANDAG is the San Diego region's primary public planning, transportation, and research agency, comprising the 18 cities and the County of San Diego. SANDAG serves as the public forum for regional policy decisions about growth, transportation, environmental management, housing, open space, energy, public safety, and binational collaboration. SANDAG receives local, state, and federal funds to implement regional policies, programs, and projects that advance its vision. SANDAG passes through a portion of its funding through several competitive grant programs.

SANDAG is currently soliciting applications for SGIP. The goal of this program is to fund comprehensive planning activities, public infrastructure projects, and climate action plan projects that facilitate compact, mixed-use, transit-oriented development and increase housing and transportation choices. SGIP is funded through the *TransNet* Extension Ordinance.

The City’s bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure has recently benefited from state and local grant programs. Construction is nearing completion for the Connect Main Street Phase 1-2 and 3 Project, which received funding from SANDAG’s SGIP grant and the California Natural Resources Agency Green Infrastructure Grant. Recently, the City received funding from the State’s Active Transportation Program for design and construction for the Connect Main Street Project Phases 2-3 and 4-6. The City is applying for SGIP funding to undertake improvements to the Broadway and Sweetwater Road intersection and to conduct a regional bikeway corridor study.

The Broadway and Sweetwater Intersection Improvement Project (Intersection Improvement Project) proposes implementing either a roundabout with separated bikeway lanes or a protected intersection with fully protected bike crossings at the intersection of Broadway and Sweetwater Road. Both intersection types are so innovative that neither has yet been implemented in San Diego County. Both alternatives are intersection types that would be commonly seen in the Netherlands, home to arguably the most advanced multi-modal transportation network in the world. This is a key intersection along the proposed regional bikeway that runs through the City. Such improvements are critical to fostering healthier lifestyles, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting economic vitality. The estimated cost for this project is \$3,501,000.

The second proposed project seeks funds for a regional bikeway corridor study to allow the City to identify key priorities and invest in infrastructure that encourages active modes of travel. A regional bike corridor in Lemon Grove will promote access to affordable, reliable and safe mobility options for everyone by providing a safe and convenient bike facility. The corridor will be designed to be accessible to people of all ages and abilities. The proposed project will utilize the regional bikeway alignment identified in SANDAG’s Regional Bike Master Plan and complete a corridor study to evaluate the feasibility of implementing separated bike lanes and innovative intersection safety enhancements along the alignment. Residents currently do not have access to safe, comfortable bike facilities as a mobility option. This project takes the first step in implementing a regional bikeway for Lemon Grove. The estimated cost for this project is \$633,500.

By submitting this grant application, the City is taking a significant step toward ensuring its streets are safer, equitable and welcoming for all users, including vulnerable populations such as children, seniors, and people with disabilities. These projects will benefit students, families, residents, and visitors by bringing needed active transportation infrastructure and improved safety, making active transportation a more viable option.

Environmental Review:

- Not subject to review
- Negative Declaration
- Categorical Exemption, Section []
- Mitigated Negative Declaration

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact associated with applying for the grant. Acceptance of the grant(s), if awarded, would result in a City in-kind match-funding requirement of \$1,000 to be determined at the time of award of the grant.

Public Notification: None.

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council adopt a Resolution (**Attachment A**) to authorize the City Manager to submit a grant application for SANDAG's SGIP for Broadway and Sweetwater Road intersection improvements and a regional bikeway corridor study in the amount of \$4,134,500 and authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary application and funding documents.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEMON GROVE,
CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR
GRANT FUNDS FROM THE SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF
GOVERNMENTS AND ACCEPTING THE TERMS OF THE GRANT
AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, up to \$45 million in *TransNet* funding for Smart Growth Incentive Program (SGIP) projects is available to local jurisdictions and the County of San Diego through the SGIP; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lemon Grove seeks to obtain grant funding from San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG); and

WHEREAS, the City of Lemon Grove certifies that it has an adopted Climate Action Plan (CAP) or Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction plan that includes all of the following items:

- Establishes a locally appropriate 2030 GHG reduction target for communitywide GHG emissions derived from the State’s legislative target for 2030 (as established by SB 32 or as amended by future legislation) and establishes long-term targets
- Quantifies, using substantial evidence, how local GHG reduction strategies, programs, and measures would meet or exceed the local GHG reduction target.
- Establishes a mechanism to monitor the plan’s progress toward achieving the target, including reporting data to SANDAG and a requirement to amend the plan if it is not achieving adopted goals; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California, as follows:

SECTION 1. The Lemon Grove City Council authorizes City Staff to submit a grant application for the following Project(s) to SANDAG, which is/are referred to as:

- Broadway and Sweetwater Road Intersection Improvements Project
- Lemon Grove Regional Bikeway Corridor Study

SECTION 2. If a grant award is made by SANDAG to fund one or more of these projects, the City of Lemon Grove commits to providing the matching fund amounts per project as listed in the grant application.

SECTION 3. If a grant award is made by SANDAG, the City of Lemon Grove authorizes staff to accept the awarded funds, execute the grant agreement(s) without exceptions in substantially the same form as provided with the call for projects, and complete the Project(s).

SECTION 4. The City of Lemon Grove understands and agrees that SANDAG shall have no liability for costs that may arise associated with the Project(s), which are not included in the grant agreement(s), including but not limited to costs stemming from claims, litigation, changes in law, or force majeure events.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on April 1, 2025, the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California, adopted Resolution No. 2025-____, passed by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Alysson Snow, Mayor

Attest:

Joel G. Pablo, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Kristen Steinke, City Attorney