

# Memorandum

**To:** CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

**Date:** May 15, 2009

**From:** BIMLA G. RHINEHART  
Executive Director

**File:** Book Item 2.2c (7)  
Action

**Ref:** Mitigated Negative Declaration – Grossmont Trolley Station Pedestrian Enhancements Project (Resolution E-09-47)

**ISSUE:** Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Grossmont Trolley Station Pedestrian Enhancements Project (project) and approve the project to be considered for future funding?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the Commission accept the MND and approve the project to allow for future consideration of funding.

**BACKGROUND:** The Project is located at the Grossmont Trolley Station, within 1/4 mile of two major freeways, I-8 and SR 125. The station is located on Bus Court, a loop road that connects the station to Fletcher Parkway, a major arterial. The station parking lot has been redeveloped into a joint use development with parking to accommodate both transit patrons and the apartment units. Grossmont Center Drive passes directly over the station platforms from Fletcher Parkway. Grossmont Center Drive serves major retail, commercial and medical facilities on the mesa above the trolley station. No direct ADA compliant access links the station to the mesa above. ADA access to the mesa is by an existing sidewalk from the station back to Fletcher Parkway and up Grossmont Center Drive. Currently, a heavily used wooden stairway is the only direct access to the mesa from the station. This stairway cannot be made ADA compliant; is on private property; and the stairway remains only by permission of the property owner, which could be revoked at any time.

The proposed project would construct an elevator tower with two lifts and a pedestrian bridge linking the trolley and bus platforms to the mesa above. The elevator and bridge create permanent, accessible and easy access between the station and the activities on the mesa. The project also would provide aesthetic enhancements on platforms to create an attractive plaza. The pedestrian enhancements include an enhanced bridge landing at the mesa, enhanced paving, a colonnade flanking the elevator tower, furniture, landscaping, lighting, security/safety features, and enhanced busway pavement. Bicycle lockers will be provided near the trolley platform to allow bicycle commuters to safely store their bicycles while using public transit.

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As the lead agency for CEQA compliance, the City of La Mesa (City) finalized the MND on October 3, 2005. The City determined that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation. Impacts that require mitigation pertain to water quality and hydrology, transportation and traffic, biological resources, and cultural resources. The City adopted a mitigation monitoring and reporting program to assign responsibility for the implementation, monitoring, and timing of each mitigation measure that was identified to reduce each identified environmental impact to a less than significant level.

The project is estimated to cost \$7,120,000 and is programmed with Federal Recovery Act Transportation Enhancement (\$4,002,000), STIP TE (1,198,000), Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 (\$1,536,000) and Transportation Development Act (\$384,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in FY 2008/09.

#### Attachments

- Resolution No. 09-47
- Project Location

# CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

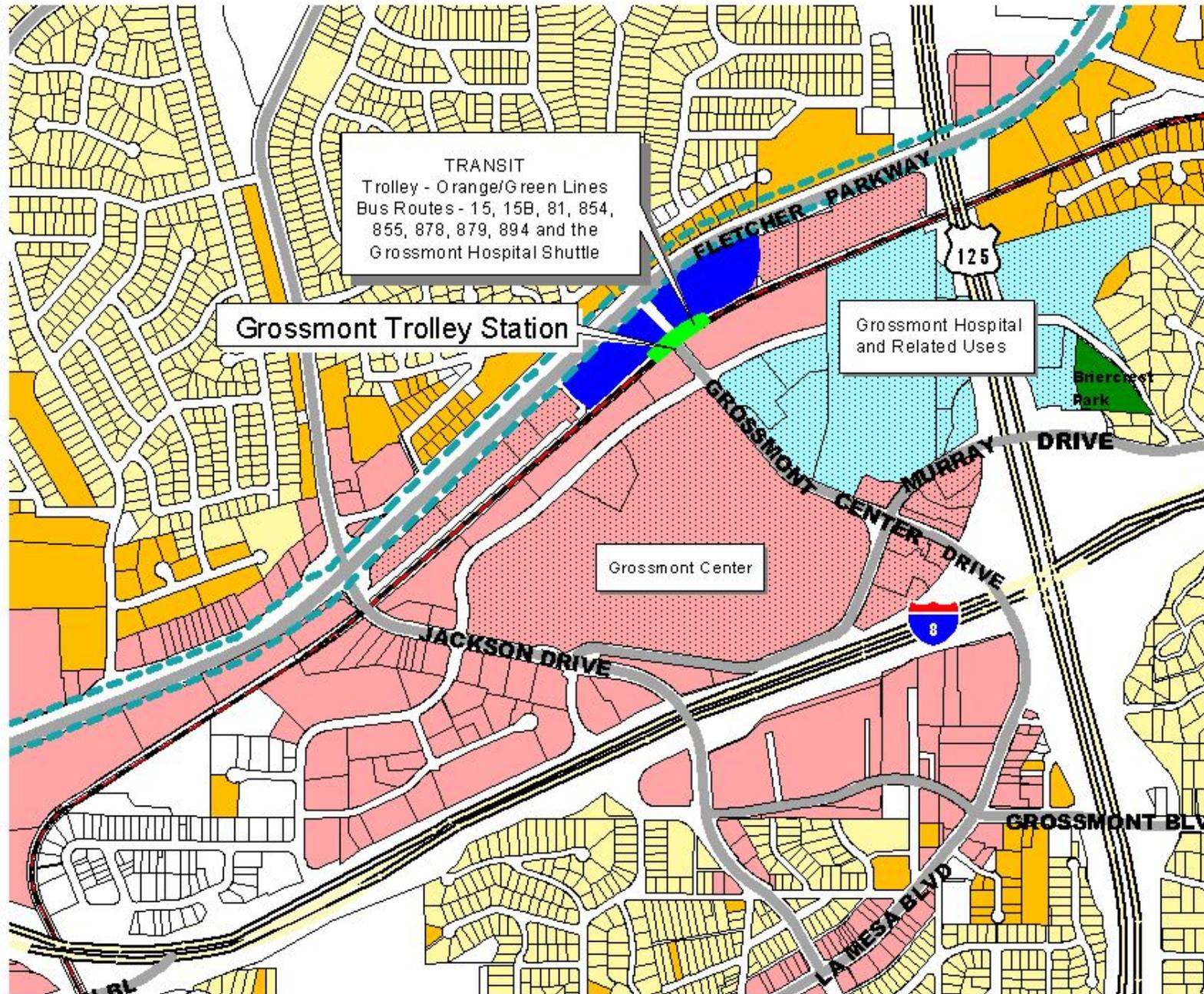
## Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding

11-SD

Resolution E-09-47

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of La Mesa has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- Grossmont Trolley Station Pedestrian Enhancements Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City of La Mesa has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project would construct an elevator tower with two lifts and a pedestrian bridge linking the Grossmont Trolley and bus platforms to the mesa above; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, the City of La Mesa has adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the implementation, monitoring, and timing of mitigation measures identified to reduce identified environmental impacts to a less than significant level; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

# GROSSMONT TROLLEY STATION



## VICINITY MAP

-  Private Project
-  Public Project
-  Trolley Tracks
-  Bicycle Lane
-  Major Roads
-  Potential Intensification of Use
-  Commercial Use
-  Medical Use
-  Multi-Family
-  Single-Family
-  N

# GROSSMONT TROLLEY STATION



## AERIAL MAP

Private Project

Public Project

Trolley Tracks

Bicycle Lane

Major Roads

