

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Date: June 14, 2010

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

File: Book Item 2.2c (16)
Action

Ref: Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Pacific Electric Inland Empire Bike Trail Project (Resolution E-10-57)

ISSUE: Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Pacific Electric Inland Empire Bike Trail Project (project) in San Bernardino County and approve the project for future consideration of funding?

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

BACKGROUND: The City of Fontana (City) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. On May 23, 2005 the City approved the MND and found that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation. On June 14, 2010 the City confirmed that there are no new environmental impacts that require mitigation and the original MND remains valid for the project.

The project will complete the City's portion of the 21-mile Pacific Electric Inland Empire Trail (PE Trail) which is intended to function as a multi-purpose trail linking cities from Claremont to Rialto along the famous Pacific Electric Railway line. In November 2000 the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) completed a Master Plan for the PE Trail. Under the Master Plan, the cities of Claremont, Montclair, Upland, Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana and Rialto are each responsible for completing the portion of the trail within their jurisdiction and the associated environmental review for their segments.

The right of way for the PE Trail is owned by SANBAG and is reserved for future rail/transit needs. The transit (or rail) component is not currently funded or programmed, and no timeframe for the transit component has been established. The proposed bike trail has been designed to be consistent with this intent, and will not conflict with construction of a transit/rail component alongside the bike trail, should such a system be programmed in the future.

Impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to a less than significant level relate to cultural resources and transportation/traffic. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, evaluation by a qualified archeologist or paleontologist during excavation; offering track from the old Pacific Electric rail system if discovered during construction to the Perris Museum; and

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installation of appropriate signalization or connector segments to provide safe transitions at crossings.

The project is fully funded through construction and is estimated to cost \$3,762,367. The project is funded with STIP TE Reserves (\$2,345,000) and Local (\$1,417,367) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2009/10. On June 14, 2010 the City confirmed that the project scope set forth in the MND is consistent with the project scope programmed in the STIP.

Attachments

- Resolution E-10-57
- Project Location

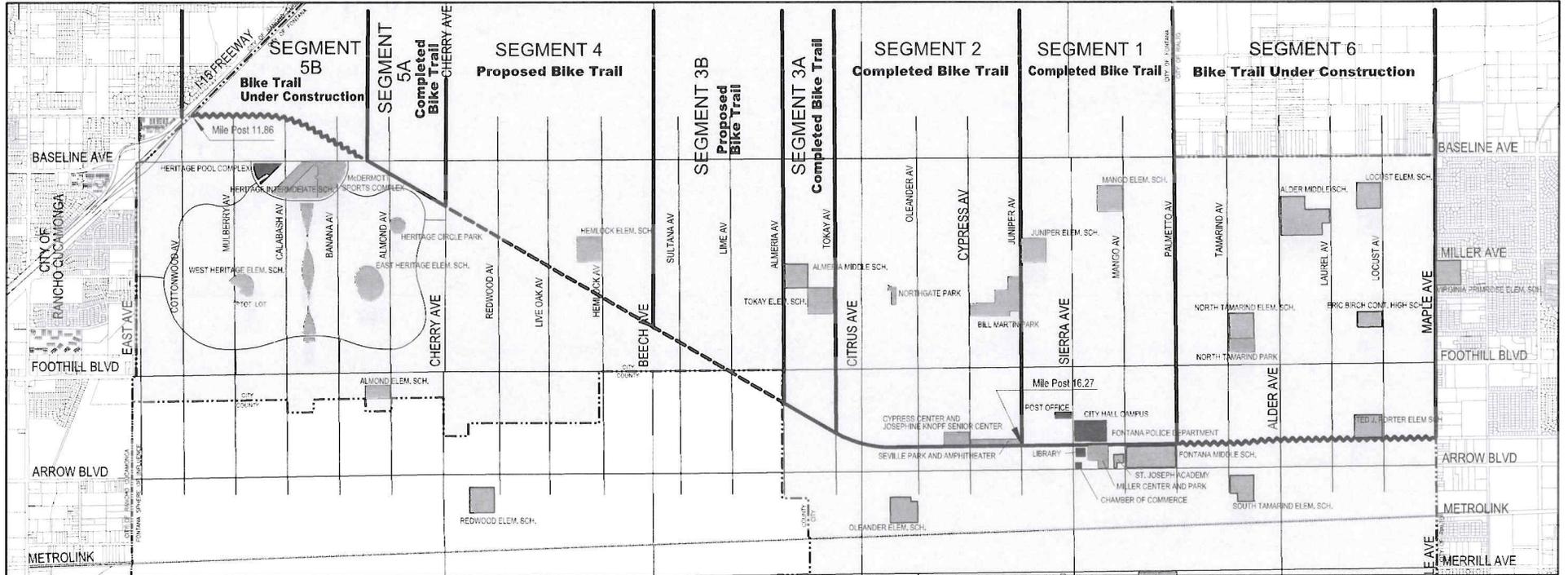
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 08 – San Bernardino County Resolution E-10-57

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Fontana (City) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - Pacific Electric Inland Empire Bike Trail
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City 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 will construct Segments 3B and 4 of the Pacific Electric Inland Empire Bike Trail; 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 found that all significant or potentially significant impacts can be reduced by mitigation measures to a less than significant level; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the City Council approved the Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

MAP 2

Pacific Electric Inland Empire Non-Motorized Pedestrian/Bike Trail



Legend

- Proposed Bike Trail (dashed line)
- Completed Bike Trail (solid line)
- Bike Trail Under Construction (dashed line with wavy pattern)
- Schools (grey square)
- Parks (light grey square)
- Facilities (dark grey square)
- City of Fontana (white square)

Scale: 0 to 2500'

North Arrow

