



AGENDA REPORT

Department: City Clerk's Office
Prepared by: Tirza Gonzales, Management Analyst II
Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 6, 2022
Approved by: Brad Raulston, City Manager

SUBJECT:

Appropriation of Funds in the amount of \$999,996 for the Clean Mobility Options (CMO) Voucher Program for the Free Ride Around National City (FRANC).

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution Entitled, "Resolution of the City Council of the City of National City, California, authorizing the Appropriation of Funds in the amount of \$999,996 for the Clean Mobility Options (CMO) Voucher Programs for the Free Ride around National City (FRAN)."

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE PRIOR ACTION:

Not Applicable.

EXPLANATION:

The Clean Mobility Options Voucher Pilot (CMO) Program is an initiative of the California Air Resources Board funded by the California Climate Investment Program. Its primary goal is to provide funding for zero-emission shared mobility options to underserved communities in California. The City of National City submitted a grant request late 2021 for a Mobility Hub and a Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) Program at the 8th Street Trolley Station and were notified in spring 2022 of the award along with 19 other projects in California.

The program is called FRANC - Free Ride Around National City - and is for the construction of solar panels on shade structures as well as the purchase of NEV shuttle vehicles and a cage for overnight storage and recharging of the NEVs. The shuttle system is intended to provide first and last mile connections for the trolley station as well as connections to other origins and destinations in Downtown and Westside National City through a combination of fixed routes (along 8th Street and Roosevelt on a new multi-use path being covered by other grants) as well on demand services using streets that are under 35mph posted speeds where the vehicle is considered to be street legal. The system is expected to operate on an on-call design with fixed routes (yet to be determined) throughout the day.

City Council adopted Resolution 2021-104 on August 3, 2021 accepting the grant for the FRANC program for a maximum of \$999,996 to establish and operate for the first 3 years with commitments from the City to operate the system at their own expense for year 4 and 5. The amount required to run the program for years 4 and 5 is estimated to be \$219,000. This cost is projected to be recovered through a variety of methods including revenue from advertisements, micromobility recharging, housing development partnerships (parking fees), fairbox return on NEV, etc.

Service Area has been preliminarily defined to include the full Waterfront to Harbor and Tidelands, 4 gates to Naval Base San Diego, and to the City boundary to the North, I-805 on the East, and

Sweetwater River on the South. Due to limitations on funding, manpower requirements and battery life, the full City area west of I-805 cannot be included. The Service Area will follow the 805 boundary south to 16th Street, then will go West until Highland Avenue and then continue over to SR 54. The Service Area Boundary is 2.8 Square Miles or 1,800 Acres with a 12.5 mile perimeter

The current effort is on verifying the service area, staffing requirements, equipment, construction items, and all budget costs. The state is willing to accept some increases in cost in order to implement this program, the only current grant from CMO that is using and producing clean energy and using an NEV. Construction costs, material costs, labor, technology, and insurance have all gone up dramatically since the grant application was filled out in 2020. The project is past many of the delays caused by insurance requirements, agreements with Circuit as the project partner, sizing the system to meet the budget and the service area, and the analysis of alternative products and technologies. The program is now expected to be available to the public in the fall 2023.

Next steps include the development and implementation of community surveys, the finalization of a business plan, marketing plan, branding, and operational plan required by the state. The surveys are intended to be done in November and December and the planning and design components of the project by the end of the year

Staff recommends the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$999,996 for the Clean Mobility Options (CMO) Voucher Program for the Free Ride Around National City (FRANC).

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Revenue Account No. 296-06613-3463 - \$999,996 (Free Ride Around National City)

Expenditure Account No. 001-409-500-598-6613 - \$999,996 (Free Ride Around National City)

RELATED CITY COUNCIL 2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Transportation Choices and Infrastructure

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

This is not a project under CEQA and is therefore not subject to environmental review.CCR15378; PRC 21065.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION:

Agenda Report posted within 72 hours of meeting date and time in accordance with Brown Act.

ORDINANCE:

Not Applicable

EXHIBITS: D

Exhibit A - Resolution