



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Planning & Development Review *Staff Report*

Ord. No. 2015-6: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept funds in the amount of \$240,000 from the Virginia Department of Transportation; to transfer \$60,000 in matching funds from the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Budget, Bike Sharrows / Lanes project in the Transportation category; to amend the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Budget by establishing a new project in the Transportation category called the Franklin Street and Main Street Cycle Track project; and to appropriate the total amount of \$300,000 to the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the new Franklin Street and Main Street Cycle Track project by \$300,000 for the purpose of designing and constructing cycle tracks on Franklin Street and Main Street between Belvidere Street and 9th Street.

To: City Planning Commission
From: Land Use Administration
Date: February 2, 2015

PETITIONER

Thomas Flynn, City Transportation Engineer
Jian Xu, Transportation Operations Engineer
City of Richmond

LOCATION

900 East Broad Street

PURPOSE

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept funds in the amount of \$240,000 from the Virginia Department of Transportation; to transfer \$60,000 in matching funds from the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Budget, Bike Sharrows / Lanes project in the Transportation category; to amend the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Budget by establishing a new project in the Transportation category called the Franklin Street and Main Street Cycle Track project; and to appropriate the total amount of \$300,000 to the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the new Franklin Street and Main Street Cycle Track project by \$300,000 for the purpose of designing and constructing cycle tracks on Franklin Street and Main Street between Belvidere Street and 9th Street.

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

The Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on-road and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, environmental mitigation and recreational trail program projects.

The Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is one of four Transportation Management Area (TMA) MPOs in Virginia which will receive a direct apportionment for the

selection and funding of TA projects. All projects are reviewed by the State and approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB). This funding program mandates 20% in matching funds to be supplied by the applicant.

The Franklin Street and Main Street Cycle Track Project (Downtown Cycle Track) will improve bicycle mobility and safety along 15 blocks of Franklin Street and Main Street from Belvidere Street to 9th Street. The cycle track will provide a physically separated eastbound and westbound bicycle lane on Franklin Street and Main Street, respectively, functioning as a one-way couplet. (A cycle track is a bikeway that is also known as a barrier-protected bike lane.)

The western terminus of the project will link to the Floyd Avenue Bike Boulevard, serving to provide continued bike mobility through the Fan westward to the Museum District and Carytown. The eastern terminus of the project will be linked to the Virginia Capital Trail through Main Street Station, providing bike access into and through Shockoe Bottom.

Retail, commercial and office destinations, as well as government and institutional (VCU) facilities will be served and made accessible by bicycle along the corridor, including enhanced commuter access to downtown.

The Franklin Street and Main Street Cycle Track Project is recommended in the City's Richmond Strategic Multi-modal Transportation Plan (RSMTMP) as a bike improvement project.

The total project cost is estimated at \$300,000. The amount of \$240,000 has been approved by the CTB for FY2015. The TA Funds require 20% matching funds. The City's match is \$60,000 through the approved CIP FY15 budget account 500309/101465.

The Department of Public Work recommends approval of this ordinance.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Site Description

The Franklin Street and Main Street Cycle Track Project (Downtown Cycle Track) will improve bicycle mobility and safety along 15 blocks of Franklin Street and Main Street from Belvidere Street to 9th Street. The cycle track will provide a physically separated eastbound and westbound bicycle lane on Franklin Street and Main Street, respectively, functioning as a one-way couplet. (A cycle track is a bikeway that is also known as a barrier-protected bike lane.)

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Proposed Use of the Property

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eastbound and westbound bicycle lane on Franklin Street and Main Street, respectively, functioning as a one-way couplet. (A cycle track is a bikeway that is also known as a barrier-protected bike lane.)

Master Plan

The Richmond Downtown Plan designations for these areas include Urban Center Areas and Urban Core Areas.

Zoning & Ordinance Conditions

The properties along the Cycle Track are zoned B-4 Central Business District.

Surrounding Area

The surrounding properties are zoned B-4 Central Business District and are predominantly occupied by a mix of commercial and office uses.

Neighborhood Participation

There has been no neighborhood participation associated with this request.

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