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CALAVERAS COUNCIL
of GOVERNMENTS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Executive Director

DATE: March 28, 2006

SUBJECT: Bike Pedestrian Fund Expenditure Authorization – West Point

RECOMMENDATION

That the CCOG authorize use of the bike/pedestrian fund balance of \$97,158 for construction of bicycle and pedestrian pathways in the town of West Point near the West Point Elementary School.

BACKGROUND

On March 20, 2006 the CCOG Director George Dondero and Transportation Planner Brittany Odermann met with Supervisor Steve Wilensky and Planning Commissioner Holly Mines regarding development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in West Point. The Supervisor and Planning Commissioner expressed concern that no efforts have been made to implement plans developed by the CCOG for bike and pedestrian facilities in West Point since a plan was completed in June 2003. Many young students are compelled to walk or bicycle in less than adequate or safe conditions around the town of West Point as they make their way to school.

DISCUSSION

Each year the CCOG sets aside 2% of available Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for bike and pedestrian projects. Currently, there is \$59,981 available in this fund. The Supervisor is requesting that facilities be constructed in the immediate neighborhood of the West Point school to improve safety and facilitate travel for students and pedestrians in the area. The bike pedestrian funds available could be allocated by the CCOG for this project.

Other funds potentially available for this project include \$37,177 of Bike-Ped funds allocated by the CCOG in 2001 to County Public Works for completion of an unspecified project. To date, Public Works has not expended or claimed these funds. Staff recommends designating this amount to the West Point project, for a total of \$97,158. Even then, the project will need additional funding. Public Works will need to provide a new cost estimate for this project before proceeding. This is because the individual projects identified in the 2003 West Point plan need to be broken up into “fundable chunks.”

To completely fund the project, Public Works is encouraged to pursue the following sources:

1. Apply for a Safe-Routes-to-Schools grant in the next funding cycle. This project is clearly qualified.
2. Consider using Local Transportation Funds (LTF). It is likely some LTF will be available for claims after transit allocations are made in the current fiscal year. Staff can generally provide the amount available for claims (non-transit) in September. The Board of Supervisors have adopted a policy to apply any non-transit LTF claims toward bicycle and pedestrian projects. The West Point project would this qualify for an LTF claim under that policy.
3. Look within the Public Works budget for other available funds.