

BOARD COMMUNICATION: YOLO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

350 Industrial Way, Woodland, CA 95776---- (530) 661-0816

Topic: Yolo Active Transportation Corridors (YATC) Update	Agenda Item#: Agenda Type:	7 Info/Discussion
		Attachments: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No
Prepared By: B. Abbanat		Meeting Date: May 9, 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

This section is to provide the YCTD Board of Directors an update on the Yolo Active Transportation Corridors.

BACKGROUND:

In summer 2021, YCTD applied for and was awarded \$1.2 million from the federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for the \$1.7 million Bike & Pedestrian Trail Network Planning Project. The project has since been re-branded as Yolo Active Transportation Corridors (YATC) to better reflect its purpose for developed transportation corridors and avoid potential confusion with undeveloped, recreational trails.

YATC will develop an active transportation plan for a network of multiuse facilities that will help to address barriers to mobility for low-income and minority residents of Yolo County. This planning project will build upon YCTD’s recent efforts to explore how public interest design of transportation services can be used to address the needs of the region’s most isolated and disadvantaged areas, where the impacts of systemic racism, institutional disadvantages of rurality, and disproportionately high environmental burdens generate disparities in socioeconomic outcomes.

Progress

After the award announcement, limited project activity occurred for two primary reasons: 1) The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Caltrans have been delayed preparing a project contract for execution and 2) the new Senior Planner for Multi-Modal Projects position was not filled. While staff still wait for FHWA and Caltrans to draft a contract for YCTD signature, the Senior Planner position has been filled and project preparation is underway.

Project Preparation Phase

The Project Preparation phase, consists of mapping the YATC project process, identifying key public and NGO stakeholders, and holding initial conversations with public agency partners most critical to this project’s success. Initial focus group discussions with NGO representatives are also scheduled during this phase.

The Project Preparation phase’s purpose is to ensure key stakeholder groups are aware of the project, how we’re approaching it, and to offer early input into items we should consider as we look to bring a consulting team on board. This early input helps inform a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to select the consulting team.

Initial conversations were held with appropriate contacts at:

- Yolo County
- City of Woodland
- City of Davis
- City of West Sacramento
- City of Winters
- Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)

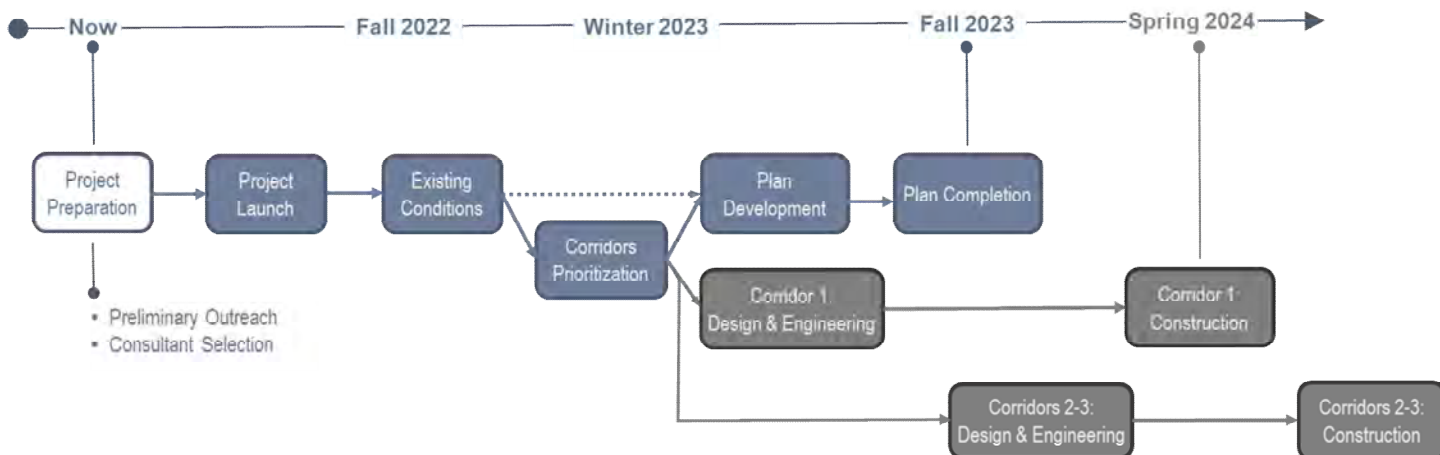
Initial NOG focus group conversations are scheduled with the following cohorts:

- Community Services / Public Health
- Environmental
- Transportation Advocacy
- Economic Development

Project Approach

Typically, a project at the YATC scale would have sequential, separate planning and capital project development processes. The first process would consist of a dedicated community outreach and planning effort, Board adoption, and then progress with capital project design. However, the RAISE grant was written to *combine* these two processes into a single process, which could result in confusion among the public whether this is a planning project or a capital project, when in fact, it is both.

At this stage, staff anticipates releasing an RFQ in summer 2022, and having a qualified consulting team under contract by late summer 2022. The below flow chart reflects our high-level project approach:



Staff currently imagines splitting the project into two phases after a combined initial community outreach phase where existing conditions are analyzed and the community can provide meaningful input identifying priority corridors for capital project design. Continued plan development, such as policies, identifying secondary corridors, implementation, planning-level cost estimates, and other common planning activities will proceed *concurrently* with design & engineering of at least one (1) priority corridor to position for competitive funding quickly. The processes will continue to inform each other; for example, design assumptions from Corridor 1 Design & Engineering (D&E) could feed into design guidelines/standards for the final plan. Likewise, planning efforts could help inform cost estimating for Corridors 2-3 Design & Engineering.

Consultant Selection

Staff have spent considerable effort determining an ideal consultant selection process. Given YATC is a multi-year project and D&E of Priority Corridors occurs deeper into this process, D&E scope of work specifics are difficult to determine let alone accurately estimate for consultant teams. Federal/state approval processes also function better with higher levels of certainty than YATC can provide at this point. As a result, staff propose selecting a consultant team via one-step RFQ. A one-step RFQ will allow staff to select the best *team* from which to collaboratively develop a scope of work, schedule, and budget in two separate phases (Planning, D&E). Amending the contract later to include D&E is a logical approach given the potential complexities of this work which occur at a later stage and aren't known until well into the planning process. This also provides flexibility in case staff prefers to shift course to a different civil engineering firm.

Consultant team selection will be guided by an interagency Technical Advisory Committee which will meet at least once prior to RFQ release to ensure project partners are comfortable with the project approach.

Next Steps

Next steps consist of completing focus group interviews, finalizing an Agreement with FHWA/Caltrans and, then issuing an RFQ for consulting services. Staff hopes to have a consulting team selected by mid-summer. Attachment 1 represents staff's best estimate of project preparation milestones leading up to project launch.

Attachments

1. YATC Project Preparation Phase Milestones & Schedule Chart.

ATTACHMENT 1

