ITEM 5.3

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT
OCTOBER 14, 2019, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

ITEM: PUBLIC HEARING (PUBLISHED NOTICE) TO CONSIDER UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS FOR FY 20-21

RECOMMENDATION: City Council to Consider the Following:

1. Hold a Public Hearing; and
2. Council to Consider Unmet Transit Needs within the City of Lathrop (Transportation Development Act Requirements for Transit Funds)

SUMMARY:

State law, as presented in the Transportation Development Act (TDA), requires the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) to ensure that reasonable transit needs are met before Local Transportation Funds (LTF) are allocated for non-transit purposes, such as street and roadway projects. If such need exists, a jurisdiction must expend TDA funds to first meet those needs. If no such need exists, the jurisdiction has the option of using these funds for streets and roadway improvements and repairs. Last year’s Unmet Transit Needs Report indicated that the City of Lathrop had no unmet transit needs that were reasonable to meet.

In order to continue receiving TDA-derived funds, per TDA requirements the jurisdiction must hold a public hearing to assess its Unmet Transit Needs. The purpose of tonight’s public hearing is to solicit comments from the public on the unmet transit needs that may exist within the City and that might be reasonably met.

BACKGROUND:

The TDA has two funding components: Local Transportation Funds (LTF) and State Transit Assistance Funds (STA). According to the 1970 census, counties with populations under 500,000 have the option of using some or all of their LTF for roads and streets if an unmet needs process is completed, as long as there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet. If any such needs are found, the jurisdiction must expend TDA funds to meet those needs before any monies may be spent for road and street purposes. TDA requires the jurisdiction to hold a public hearing on “unmet transit needs” in order to continue receiving TDA derived funds.
The LTF and the STA can be used for three purposes; the funds must be used in the order listed:

1. Transit Projects
2. Road and Street Projects
3. Pedestrian and Bicycle Projects

Examples of projects funded through TDA funds in the City include the Citywide Pavement Maintenance Repair Program, Citywide Traffic Calming, Citywide Sidewalk Repair Program, Lathrop Road Grade Separation, and Thomsen Road Improvements.

The primary use of these funds is for transit related items, and in order to continue receiving TDA funds the City must meet current needs related to transit. Last year, there were no unmet transit needs that were reasonable to meet. Therefore, the City of Lathrop continued with the same level of service currently offered at that time.

The purpose of tonight’s public hearing is to solicit comments from the public on the unmet transit needs that may exist within the City and that might be reasonably met. The information obtained will be verified by SJCOG and can be used to direct changes if necessary. For example, in order to meet a reasonable need, a change in stops or schedule times could be made for the existing Regional Transit District systems operated by San Joaquin County.

Any public or Council Member comments that may be offered during the Public Hearing will be forwarded to SJCOG staff to be included, along with comments from throughout the County, in SJCOG’s Annual Report entitled, “Analysis and Determination of Unmet Transit Needs for Fiscal Year.”

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

Per TDA requirements, in order to continue TDA-derived funds, the City must hold a public hearing to assess the City’s unmet transit needs.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None at this time.
APPROVALS:

Steven J. Medina
Assistant Engineer

Date 9-25-19

Michael King
Assistant Public Works Director

Date 9-25-19

Cari James
Finance & Administrative Services Director

Date 9-25-19

Salvador Navarrete
City Attorney

Date 9-25-19

Stephen J. Salvatore
City Manager

Date 9-24-19