



London N. Breed, Mayor  
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

**Date:** December 2, 2020

**To:** Recreation and Park Commission  
Capital Committee

**Through:** Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager  
Toks Ajike, Director, Capital & Planning Division  
Stacy Bradley, Deputy Director of Planning, Capital & Planning Division

**From:** Brian Stokle, Capital & Planning Division

**Subject:** McLaren Park and Neighborhood Connections – PCA Grant

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## Agenda Wording

### McLaren Park and Neighborhood Connections – PCA Grant

Discussion and possible action to 1) authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with the San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Commission concerning the administration of a \$194,000 Project Conservation Area grant for the McLaren Park and Neighborhood Connections Project; and 2) recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Department to accept and expend the grant.

### Strategic Plan

The Recreation and Parks planning project supports the following objective in the Strategic Plan:

- Strategy 1: Inspire Public Space
  - Objective 1.1: Develop more open space to address population growth in high-needs areas and emerging neighborhoods
  - Objective 1.2: Strengthen the quality of existing Parks & Facilities
- Strategy 3: Inspire Investment
  - Objective 3.1: Increase public investment to better align with infrastructure needs and service expectation.

### Background

The Priority Conservation Area (PCA) Grant Program provides funding to acquire, enhance or improve designated regionally significant open space and regional trail systems that are being pressured by urban development and other factors. Grant funding is provided by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC).

The Capital Planning Division reviewed all potential PCAs under our jurisdiction and determined that the McLaren Park and Neighborhood Connection Study and Twin Peaks Trail Improvements Projects were the most competitive for this round of PCA funding. The McLaren Park is designated as a Priority Conservation Area and qualifies for this funding sources. On October 7, 2019, the Department was notified that the McLaren Park and Neighborhood Connection Study was recommended for \$194,000 in PCA funding in 2020.

McLaren Park, the second largest city park in San Francisco, was planned and designed during the mid to late 20th Century when access to parks as dominated by autos, and thus the park in many locations lacks basic sidewalks or bike facilities to allow safe and welcoming access to and through the park for pedestrians, hikers, and bike users. In addition, many of McLaren Park’s streets are still designed for higher auto speeds (e.g. 40 mph on Visitacion Ave), despite passing three school campuses and heavily used “new “park facilities like the McLaren Bike Park.



The McLaren Park & Neighborhood Connections project (Project) is an effort to create a safer and clearer pathway system for walkers, bikers, and other park users to navigate to and through McLaren Park from its neighboring areas, including adjacent areas Communities of Concern. In addition it will plan for calmed streets and improved crossings. The Project is a collaborative effort between the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (SFRPD) and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA). The project is an outgrowth of the McLaren Park Vision Plan and builds on neighborhood work by the SFMTA, Mercy Housing, and the San Francisco Planning Department. In addition, the project will compliment and coordinate with the SFMTA’s Visitacion Valley Community Based Transportation Plan that will look at Transportation

Values, Improvement Opportunities and Development of Implementation – all similar goals to the SFRPD project and in the adjacent Visitacion Valley neighborhood. Coordinating these projects will leverage funding and enable optimizing shared resources for public engagement and development of cost estimates and design drawings.

The proposed project will engage the community and mobility advocates to identify corridors and junction locations within the southwest portion of McLaren Park that will improve connections to park facilities and adjacent neighborhoods and create an inviting, safe and easy to use system. This will assure that project is focused on the most important corridors in this section of the park and that those the scope of work is supported by the community. Community support is critical when securing capital funding. Based on community feedback, develop concept plans for a multi-use (pedestrian and bike) system and set of pathways, sidewalks, bikeways, and crossing improvement. For select project, developed detailed drawings (up to 30% design) and if feasible, cost estimates.

**Project Fund Sources:**

Priority Conservation Area Grant	\$194,000
Visitacion Valley Impact Fee	\$168,000
SF Rec & Park:	\$ 75,000
SFMTA:	\$ 75,000 In-kind
<u>Mercy Housing:</u>	<u>\$ 70,000 In kind</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$582,000</b>

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Commission 1) authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with the San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Commission concerning the administration of a \$194,000 Project Conservation Area grant for the McLaren Park and Neighborhood Connections Project; and 2) recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Department to accept and expend the grant.

**Supported By**

- San Francisco Bicycle Coalition
- Walk SF
- Mercy Housing
- San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
- San Francisco Planning Department

**Opposed By**

None known at this time.