

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity (RAISE) Grant

Transportation & Mobility Committee
April 19, 2022

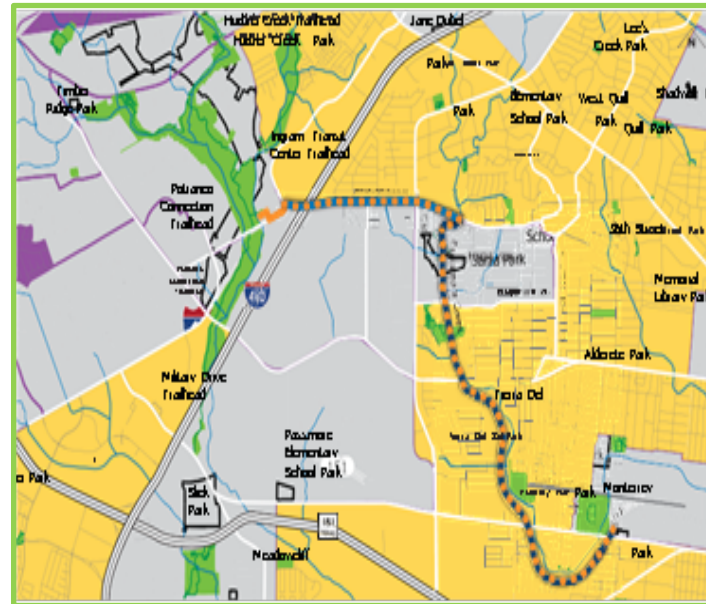
U.S. Department of Transportation De-Brief on 2021 R.A.I.S.E. Grant



Zarzamora Creek Greenway Trail - RAISE Grant

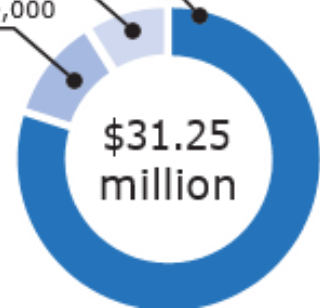
Project Information

- On July 10, 2021 the City of San Antonio applied for the RAISE Grant requesting **\$25 million** for engineering, right-of-way, and construction funds to complete the Zarzamora Creek Greenway Trail (ZCGT)
- The trail is **7.1 mile segment** accessible, multi-use trail network adjacent to the VIA Metropolitan Transit Ingram Center
- The VIA Ingram Transit Center serves **10 routes** including three of the **top 20** highest ridership routes in the entire VIA system



Funding Sources

RAISE Funds	\$25,000,000
City of San Antonio	\$2,750,000
Bexar County	\$3,500,000



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USDOT De-Brief – March 29, 2022

➤ USDOT Received 763 Eligible Applications

- \$1 billion available to award
- 90 Projects Awarded
- 63 Capital Projects; 27 Planning Projects
- Awards split evenly: urban and rural areas
 - 47 States and the District of Columbia

➤ Four Merit Ratings Assigned:

- Unacceptable
- Acceptable
- **Recommended (The City)**
- Highly Recommended



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Review Criteria & Process

- All eligible applications put through a merit evaluation based on the seven (7) grant criteria
- Four Ratings:
 - Unacceptable
 - Acceptable
 - **Recommended (The City's Rating)**
 - Highly Recommended



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Review Criteria & Process (cont.)

- Upon receiving a rating, the Project Readiness Merit Review Team evaluates three (3) items:
 1. How project aligns with seven (7) criteria
 2. Local & Regional Impact: *a.) Clear; b. Direct; and c.) Significant*
 3. Content & Credibility of information presented in the application
- Project advances to Sr. Project Review Team of USDOT Leaders who evaluate the project application based on Project Readiness & Environmental Analysis



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RECOMMENDED Rating Details

- **SAFETY: (Good)** Ingram Road bike-ped safety, multi-use trail, 12' wide, green, landscaped buffer
- **NEEDED:** Desired more details on the types of crashes (pedestrian, bicycle, auto) to establish a baseline from the data shared to the projected reductions as a result of the Zarzamora Trail Project
- **QUALITY OF LIFE (QOL): (Good)** Historically underserved community that provided connections to jobs, schools, parks and transit center
- **LOCAL/REGIONAL IMPACT: (Moderate)**
- **NEEDED:** 1.) More information on the residents not represented in the Parks Trail Usage Survey; 2.) The Zarzamora community response rate was low and not a significant number of letters of support from the community to complement the survey data for the same area; 3.) Magnitude of benefits generalized and not clearly articulated/represented



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RECOMMENDED Rating Details

- **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: (Good)** Near transit alternatives; climate changes and reductions in greenhouse gases with the introduction of the shared-use path.
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Good)** Access to shops, libraries, foot traffic to storefronts, etc.; showed that trail building is more economical versus building new roads.
- **NEEDED:** Did not clearly demonstrate that jobs would go to people in the areas that were historically underserved; needed more specific data associated with the increase in jobs for those in the areas that are underserved.
- **CREDIBILITY** – Information needs to be consistent, robust, targeted
- **NEEDED:** Discrepancies on project length- application indicated 7.1; 9.3 and 4.7 miles, which was confusing to the reviewers (need to be clear about project limits).



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R.A.I.S.E. 2022 Criteria & Due Dates

- \$1.5 billion; \$775 million more approved by Congress; now \$2.2 billion through 2026 for RAISE
- At least \$1.5 billion available per year through 2026 and possibly beyond
- Eight Criteria (Same as 2021, but a new one added: Mobility & Community Connectivity)
- One major change in the RAISE evaluation process in Section E:
 - Merit Ratings of: 1.) Non-responsive; 2.) Low; 3.) Medium/High in each criteria
 - Applications are: HIGHLY Recommended if: “HIGH” in at least five criteria; and “RESPONSIVE” in three criteria to move forward
 - “RECOMMENDED” if: At least one, but no more than four of the merit criteria ratings are “HIGH”, no more than three of the ratings are “LOW”, and non are “NON-RESPONSIVE”.
 - “ACCEPTABLE” if: There is a combination of “HIGH”, “MEDIUM”, “LOW”, or “NON-RESPONSIVE” ratings that do not fit within the definitions of HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, RECOMMENDED, or UNACCEPTABLE; “UNACCEPTABLE” if: There are three or more “NON-RESPONSIVE” ratings.
- Applications due in www.grants.gov by April 14, 2022; Award announcements August 12, 2022



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Next Steps

- City Departments (Government Affairs, Parks & Recreation, Public Works & Transportation) are strategizing about potential future RAISE applications based on current projects in:
 - Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Call for Projects
 - City Bond Projects
 - Other local and regional projects
- Future applications (planning or capital projects) to be coordinated as in the recent past to include briefings to the Transportation & Mobility Committee



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