

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT: Update on the July Washington DC Advocacy Visit

DATE: August 13, 2021

The City's Government & Public Affairs Department will provide a recap on the recent federal advocacy visit.

Mayor Nirenberg, Councilman Manny Pelaez, and Commissioner Justin Rodriguez visited Washington D.C. on July 19th through 21st to advocate for several City of San Antonio and Bexar County federal priorities. The visit included meetings with the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Homeland Security – FEMA, and the White House. In addition, there were also meetings with San Antonio's Congressional delegation and other key members of Congress.

The agenda included advocacy for the City and County's \$25 million grant request for the *Rebuilding American Infrastructure Investment with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)* grant program. The grant was submitted on July 10. Funding would be used for engineering, right-of-way and construction to complete a 7.1-mile segment of the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail System that will connect VIA's Ingram Transit Center, Garza Park and Tierra Del Sol Park on the City's West side. The final announcement of awards is expected by November 22, 2021.

Other meetings focused on funding for infrastructure and local workforce initiatives, Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), and the Community Project funding requests included in the House Appropriations and the Transportation and Infrastructure surface transportation bills.

The Government and Public Affairs staff, in collaboration with other City departments, has been working on several follow up items from the visit. Staff will provide an update, as well as a preview of the upcoming SA-to-DC trip organized by the San Antonio and San Antonio Hispanic chambers of commerce.