

DEPARTMENT: Government & Public Affairs

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Sally Basurto

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Update

SUMMARY:

Update briefing on the implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the San Antonio region's strategies and steps taken to identify funding opportunities and coordinate with local partners, as well as a briefing on recent federal grant awards.

BACKGROUND:

On November 15, 2021, the President signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The bill includes a total of \$1.2 trillion over eight years, with \$973 billion of those funds authorized between FY 2022 and FY 2026. The BIL includes the five-year reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs with changes to existing programs and the creations of new programs. The BIL includes \$550 billion in new spending.

The City developed a strategy to help maximize opportunities to secure federal funding for San Antonio regional infrastructure projects. Government Affairs continues to track and share released guidance and notices of funding opportunities with City departments and external stakeholders.

During the IGR committee meeting, Government Affairs will provide a briefing on:

FY 2022 RAISE opportunity

On January 28, the U.S. Department of Transportation released the FY2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the next round of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. The BIL appropriated \$1.5 billion for the RAISE program. The maximum award size under the FY2022 notice is \$25 million, and applications are due by April 14, 2022. The Infrastructure Executive Roundtable, consisting of chief executive representatives of the City, County, VIA, SAWS, CPS Energy, Brooks, Port, TxDOT, MPO, AACOG, SARA and SAMCo, met on February 1 to discuss possible projects for submittal to the FY 2022 RAISE grant opportunity. The consensus of the group was to support an application from the Brooks Development Authority for the Sidney Brooks Street reconstruction project. This proposed project would transform Sidney Brooks into a complete street that will include enhanced safety features, pedestrian crosswalks, and multi-use sidewalks. Leo Gomez, President and CEO of Brooks, will provide an overview and description of the project.

U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting

In January, Mayor Nirenberg, Councilman Pelaez and City Manager Walsh attended the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington D.C. They met with officials from the White House, National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). Topics discussed included Bi-partisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding, and other key issues and priorities for San Antonio, such as broadband, workforce/training and homeland security funding, to name a few. City staff will provide a briefing on the takeaways from these meetings and follow-up actions.

Recent San Antonio area federal funding awards

On January 19, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released its workplan for funding under the BIL. Included in the workplan was \$75 million for the Westside Creeks Ecosystem Restoration project. This award represents full funding of the federal share for the Westside Creeks and will be used to complete the design and construction to restore approximately 11 miles along the Alazán, Apache, Martínez, and San Pedro Creeks. The Westside Creeks Project is a joint community effort started in 2008 with a mission to restore the environmental conditions of the Alazán, Apache, Martínez, and San Pedro Creeks; enhance flood control along these creeks; and provide increased opportunities for the surrounding communities to reconnect to the creeks. The creeks were channelized for flood protection which resulted in degraded conditions, this project will directly benefit the communities sitting on the banks of the Westside Creeks by restoring miles of creeks and 222 acres of native aquatic and riparian vegetation while maintaining and enhancing flood protection on the Guadalupe and San Antonio Rivers.

VIA Metropolitan Transit received \$760,000 from the U.S. Department of Transportation - Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to plan for transit-oriented development on seven miles of the East-West Advanced Rapid Transit Corridor, a bus rapid transit line that will run through the most underserved communities in the city.

Additionally, the VIA Advanced Rapid Transit North/South Corridor Project received a Medium-High project rating from the federal government under the New Starts Project Development program. This rating places VIA in a good position to pursue approximately \$158 million dollars in Capital Improvements Grants. The North/South Corridor Project proposes to implement a Bus Rapid Transit line from the San Antonio International Airport in the north, through downtown San Antonio, to Steves Avenue in the south. The total project cost is estimated to be \$320 million.

ISSUE:

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law represents a significant increase in infrastructure funding. The San Antonio region developed and is executing a strategy to maximize federal awards to benefit the community. The IGR Committee Chairman has requested and staff will provide updates at all regularly scheduled meetings for the foreseeable future.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only.