



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 36

Agenda Date: September 21, 2023

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Public Works Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Razi Hosseini

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Proposed Projects for the 2023 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) program

SUMMARY:

An ordinance approving the submission of a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) for funding in the total amount of \$20,125,000.00 from federal funds for three proposed projects in the total estimated amount of \$35,800,000.00 with a potential City match of \$4,025,000.00 for consideration through the 2023 Transportation Alternative Call for Projects and authorizing the acceptance of federal funds if awarded.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On December 2, 2022, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT or the department) announced a statewide Call for Projects for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) program (including available and anticipated future funds) for bicyclist and pedestrian infrastructure and planning. Through TxDOT's 2023 TA Call for Projects, the program intends to make available approximately \$252.5 million in TA funds associated with FY 2022 through FY 2025. In large, urbanized areas with populations over 200,000, TA funds are distributed directly to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) to administer. TxDOT's 2023 TA Call for Projects is intended for projects that improve safety, access, or mobility for people of all ages and abilities,

especially bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the state highway system exceeding minimum design requirements, using innovative technologies, or extending beyond the scope of a major highway investment project area.

TxDOT's 2023 TA Call for Projects involves a two-step application process, which includes a preliminary application to TxDOT followed by a detailed application.

On January 27, 2023 the City of San Antonio Public Works Department submitted preliminary applications for the following three projects: Old Highway 90 (SH 151 to Leon Creek Bridge), Market Street/Dolorosa Street Cycle Track (Flores Street to IH 37), and Citywide Accessible Barriers Removal Program. On February 21, 2023, the City Council Transportation & Mobility Committee was briefed on the submission of a preliminary application for the recommended three projects to the TxDOT.

On March 31, 2023 Public Works was notified that all three projects were qualified to proceed with a detailed application. The detailed application process requires the submission of an adopted resolution/ordinance from the project sponsor's governing body. The resolution/ordinance is required to declare support of the project, commit to providing the local matching funds (if selected), commitment to entering into an Advance Funding Agreement with TxDOT (if selected), and commitment to developing, implementing, constructing, maintaining, managing, and financing the project (where applicable).

ISSUE:

This ordinance approves the submission of a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) for funding in the total amount of \$20,125,000.00 from federal funds for three proposed projects totaling \$35,800,000.00 with a potential City match of \$4,025,000.00 for consideration through the 2023 Transportation Alternative Call for Projects and authorizing the acceptance of federal funds if awarded.

The three projects proposed by the Public Works Departments have been selected based on project readiness, funding need and applicability to program call. In March 2023, Public Works was notified that all three projects were qualified to proceed with a detailed application. The detailed application process requires the submission of an adopted resolution/ordinance from the project sponsor's governing body. The resolution/ordinance is required to declare support of the project, commit to providing the local matching funds (if selected), commitment to entering into an Advance Funding Agreement with TxDOT (if selected), and commitment to developing, implementing, constructing, maintaining, managing, and financing the project (where applicable). The selection and award of the project funding are anticipated to be announced in late 2023.

The three projects proposed by the Public Works Departments have been selected to proceed with the detailed application include:

- ***Old Highway 90 Phase 2 (State Hwy 1551 to Leon Creek Bridge)*** - Construction of corridor improvements to include street, drainage, sidewalk, lighting, bicycle and pedestrian improvements from state highway 151 to the Leon Creek bridge with the proposed 12-foot shared use path including pedestrian and traffic signal improvements, as

appropriate and within available funds.

- ***Market & Dolorosa Street Cycle Track (Flores Street to IH 37)*** - Construction of a two-way separated bike facility (cycletrack), signals and bike signage, including pedestrian and traffic signal improvements as required across downtown San Antonio on Market Street/Dolorosa from Flores Street to IH 37.
- ***Citywide Accessible Barriers Removal Program*** – Improving access to pedestrian crosswalks at signalized intersections and within school zones with the repair, replacement and relocation of pedestrian push buttons and intersection improvements to include ramps and landing work as needed.

ALTERNATIVES:

City Council could choose not to authorize any or all of the projects in this submittal for federal funding consideration. However, the City would lose an opportunity to obtain approximately \$20,125,000.00 in federal funds to complete these important bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects in San Antonio. The \$20,125,000.00 represents the estimated construction cost for the three projects less the 20% local match amount. The projects recommended meet the program requirements and represent needs throughout the San Antonio community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance requests City Council action to submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) for funding in the total amount of \$20,125,000.00 from federal funds for three proposed projects and in the total estimated amount of \$35,800,000.00. If approved, the City will be responsible for a local match of 20% of the approved construction costs including design, environmental and administration cost and is estimated at \$4,025,000.00. The City's portion is to be funded potentially through a combination of the 2022 Bond Program, future Bond Programs and future annual Fiscal Year Budgets. City match is contingent upon council approval of future budgets.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the submission of a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) for funding in the total amount of \$20,125,000.00 from federal funds for three proposed projects and in the total estimated amount of \$35,800,000.00 through the 2023 Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects and authorizing the acceptance of federal funds if awarded.