



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 1

**Agenda Date:** June 22, 2022

**In Control:** City Council B Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Government Affairs

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Sally Basurto

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Briefing update on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and its implementation.

**SUMMARY:**

The presentation provides a briefing on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, its implementation to date and the City of San Antonio's strategy and actions to identify funding opportunities and coordinate with stakeholders.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

On November 15, 2021, the President signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The bill includes \$1.2 trillion to be allocated over eight years, primarily from FY 2022 and FY 2026. The BIL included the five-year reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs with changes to existing programs and the creation of new programs. The BIL includes \$550 billion in new spending above the previous surface transportation reauthorization.

BIL aims to rebuild roads and bridges, improve public transit systems, expand passenger rail, upgrade ports and airports, invest in broadband infrastructure, repair water systems, modernize the power sector, and improve climate resilience.

The City developed a strategy to help maximize opportunities to secure federal funding for San Antonio infrastructure projects. The City's BIL strategy includes the assignment of departments as leads for relevant BIL grant opportunities; the gathering, sharing, and analysis of grant program information and staff vetting of potential projects; continuous communication with, and feedback from, City Council; coordination with local and state partners, and; state and federal outreach and advocacy. In carrying out the strategy and identification of projects the City Manager directed that departments prioritize the following:

- Projects that further existing City initiatives, priorities, and plans. [SA Tomorrow, Digital Equity Plan, Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, Airport Strategic Development Plan, etc.]
- Projects for which funding has been previously committed and would be enhanced or offset by federal funding.
- Projects that address existing needs and are not new, unless a new project is necessary to meet eligibility and competitiveness for a program.
- Projects which align with the six main priorities of the Federal Administration, to enhance their competitiveness.

## **ISSUE:**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law represents a significant increase in infrastructure funding. City Staff is providing regular updates to City Council through B Session briefings and Council Committee presentations to seek feedback regarding potential applications for specific federal grant opportunities. This briefing is intended to inform City Council about the current Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) and ongoing discussions with City departments and community partners to maximize the competitiveness of applications to benefit the San Antonio community.

Federal agencies have begun releasing notices of funding opportunities primarily for existing competitive grant programs. Grant program notices that have been released include – Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE), Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A), Airport Terminal Program, Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MEGA/INFRA/Rural), Broadband programs (Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program & Broadband Access, Equity & Deployment Program - BEAD), Bus and Bus Facilities Low or no Emission Grant program.

The City is planning to apply to the SS4A program to improve safety in eight of the City's Vision Zero corridors identified as having high pedestrian and cyclist injury incidents. Additionally, the City is expecting two additional opportunities to be released this summer that are of high interest – the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program and Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program.

To date, the San Antonio region has submitted applications to the Airport Terminal Program and RAISE grant.

Most new programs created by the BIL are still being developed and application information will be released later this year and into 2023. The White House has created [www.build.gov](http://www.build.gov) as the central portal for BIL information and updates. Government Affairs is utilizing [build.gov](http://build.gov), federal agency websites, and other sources to track the BIL's funding opportunities. Additionally,

Government Affairs is participating in federal agency led informational webinars and sharing these opportunities with the relevant City departments and local partners.

**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.