



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**  
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**Agenda Item Number:** 3

**Agenda Date:** August 10, 2022

**In Control:** Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting

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**DEPARTMENT:** Government Affairs

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Sally Basurto

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Update, FY 2023 Appropriations status, and Election Outlook.

**SUMMARY:**

Update on the implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including the release of the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program and the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program, plus a briefing on the FY 2023 appropriations process, the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, the National Defense Authorization Act, and a post mid-term elections outlook.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) signed into law in later 2021, Congress reauthorized the federal surface transportation programs and increased funding by \$550 billion. Since the May Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Committee meeting the federal government has released further guidance and notices of funding opportunities under BIL. During the IGR committee meeting, Government Affairs will provide information on the Reconnecting

Communities Pilot Program and the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program.

## **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Update**

### Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program

On June 30, DOT released the notice of funding opportunity for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program. \$195 million is available in FY 2022 to fund projects that remove, retrofit, or mitigate transportation facilities, such as highways and rail lines, that create barriers to community connectivity. Funding is available for technical assistance, planning, and capital construction. Eligible projects include but are not limited to; high-quality public transportation, infrastructure removal, pedestrian walkways, and overpasses, capping and lids, linear parks and trails, roadway redesigns and complete streets conversions. The City's Public Works team, Hemisfair, and Port San Antonio are working on proposed projects. The deadline to apply is October 13, 2022.

### Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant

On July 12, the Federal Railroad Administrations released the notice of funding opportunity for the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program. \$573 million is available in FY 2022 with twenty percent set aside for rural projects. The program will fund projects that enhance safety, improve the health and safety of communities, eliminate highway-rail and pathway-rail grade crossings, and reduce the impacts that freight movement and railroad operations have on underserved communities. focus on improving the safety and mobility of people and goods. The City's Public Works team is coordinating with the TXDoT Rail Division on a proposed project. The deadline to apply is October 4, 2022.

## **Legislative Update**

Additionally, representatives from Clark Hill, one of the City's federal consultants, will provide an update on current and upcoming priority issues in Washington, D.C., including the status of the FY 2023 appropriations process, the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, the National Defense Authorization Act - these bills have been advancing through the Congressional process in the last few weeks. Clark Hill will also provide a Congressional outlook for the remainder of the year and what to expect in the second half of the Biden administration's term.

## **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. Government Affairs is providing monthly updates to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee on BIL developments. The City of San Antonio contracts with D.C. based firms to track and advance San Antonio's federal legislative priorities. Congress is considering several pieces of legislation that will have an impact on the San Antonio community. Clark Hill representatives will provide an in-person update on these issues.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.