



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
{{item.tracking_number}}

Agenda Item Number: 4

Agenda Date: April 22, 2022

In Control: Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Government Affairs

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Sally Basurto

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Federal and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Update

SUMMARY:

Briefing on federal efforts and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including recently released and upcoming opportunities, and the San Antonio region's actions taken to advocate for projects and coordinate with local stakeholders.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On November 15, 2021, the President signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). 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 creation of new programs. The legislation includes \$550 billion in new spending.

Government Affairs tracks released guidance and notices of funding opportunities. Additionally, in coordination with other city departments, Government Affairs is communicating with relevant state and federal agencies to gather information on agency planning for the distribution of federal funds.

Additionally, in March, House Appropriations Committee Chair Rosa DeLauro, kicked off the FY2023 process for member Community Project Funding requests, formerly known as earmarks. FY2022 was the first year in which an earmark process was reactivated after a decade long lapse in the practice. Government Affairs has coordinated with City departments to identify and submit funding requests based on existing City of San Antonio priorities and initiatives.

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

Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity – MEGA/INFRA/Rural

On March 25, the U.S. Department of Transportation released a joint Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for three opportunities: the National Infrastructure Project Assistance grants program (MEGA), the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grant program (INFRA), and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant program (Rural). Projects eligible for these programs include highway and bridge, intercity passenger rail, railway/highway grade crossing or separation, wildlife crossing, public transportation, marine highway, and freight projects with significant national or regional impact, or to improve and expand surface transportation in rural areas. The BIL appropriated \$5 billion for the MEGA program, \$8 billion for the INFRA program, and \$2 billion for the Rural program from FY22 to FY26. The FY22 NOFO makes available \$1 billion for MEGA, \$1.5 billion for INFRA, and \$300 million for Rural. The deadline to apply to these programs is May 23, 2022.

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is offering pre-application informational webinars beginning May 2022. SS4A is a discretionary program that will provide \$5-6 billion in grants over the next 5 years. Funding supports regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. Eligible activities include the development or update of safety action plans/Vision Zero plans and the implementation of projects and strategies identified in those safety plans. Government Affairs and the Transportation Department will participate in the pre-application webinars to learn more about the upcoming notice of funding opportunity.

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

The Department of Energy released information to Weatherization Assistance Program managers, typically State Governments, on BIL allocations and the process to prepare and apply for BIL funding. Grantees are required to submit an application document providing a 5-year plan for the WAP funds. Texas' allocation for FY22 is \$173 million, to provide for the reduction of energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of homes. The Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) is the local recipient for WAP funds, serving Bexar, Atascosa, Bandera, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, and Wilson counties.

FY 2023 Community Project Funding (CPF)

The FY23 CPF process is highly structured and imposes several limits on the number and types of

projects that can be requested. Funding requests can only be submitted to a limited list of existing federal programs under the responsibility of House Appropriations subcommittees, and each subcommittee sets general parameters for the maximum funding available under each authorized program. The total available funding for CPF is 1 percent of discretionary spending, and each House member can submit a maximum of 15 requests.

Additionally, House Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro set a late April deadline for members to submit requests to the subcommittees, giving members a short timeline to gather and submit CPF requests. Similar to the process being undertaken with BIL, and because of the short timeframe, Government Affairs focused on requests related to existing City priorities and initiatives (Ready to Work, the Airport Strategic Development Plan, and domestic violence prevention), and sought input from delegation members and City departments. Government Affairs proposed the following projects to San Antonio House delegation members:

- SA Ready to Work – Military Expansion: Requesting \$2 million to support the military community by expanding Ready to Work program eligibility and services to the military-affiliated community (members transitioning out of active service, veterans, and their families) that reside on military installations and outside of City limits.
- SA International Airport – Electric Buses and Infrastructure: Requesting \$1.5 million to purchase three electric passenger buses (eBus) and the associated charging infrastructure needed for operation. Electric passenger buses will be utilized as shuttle buses between airport terminals and parking areas.
- Domestic Violence Prevention Services – Triple P Parenting Program: Requesting \$500,000 to support capacity building and expansion of Guardian House’s Triple P Parenting Program. The program provides parents with skills that promote positive behavior, behavior management and tools to overcome trauma, gain skills, and strengthen familial relationships. Funding will allow expansion of services for up to 475 individuals.

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 Community Project Funding process provides an opportunity for supplemental funding to City and local partners’ initiatives and projects. The City submitted projects during the FY2022 process.

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.