



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
{{item.tracking_number}}

Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: October 17, 2022

In Control: Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Government Affairs

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Sally Basurto

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Update.

SUMMARY:

Update on the recent and upcoming Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funded grant opportunities, including the Safe Streets and Roads for All, Railroad Crossing Elimination, Reconnecting Communities Pilot, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, Airport Terminal, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, and Thriving Communities programs.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) was signed into law in November 2021. Almost a year after passage of the legislation, federal agencies continue to release grant opportunities funded by the law. The City of San Antonio continues to implement the BIL implementation strategy developed to identify grants, coordinate with partners, and apply for BIL grants. The

implementation strategy includes providing regular updates to Council on activity related to the BIL. Since the last update to the Intergovernmental Relations Committees, several community applications have been submitted and additional grants have been identified for possible application submittal. The Government Affairs Department will provide an update on the following grant programs:

Submitted Applications

Safe Streets and Roads for All

SS4A is a discretionary program that will provide \$5 billion in grants over the next 5 years. Funding supports regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. The City's Transportation department submitted a \$5.5 million request to construct eight mid-block crossings on Zarzamora street and conduct a comprehensive safety campaign on ten high injury network corridors. Additionally, Bexar County submitted a planning grant request to help increase safety on County roads.

Railroad Crossing Elimination

In FY 2022, \$573 million is available under the Railroad Crossing Elimination program. 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. The City's Public Works department, in coordination with the TXDoT Rail Division, submitted a \$42.3 million request to build a four-lane grade separation on Rittiman Road over the Union Pacific Railroad Glidden Subdivision.

Reconnecting Communities Pilot

The Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program is making available \$195 million 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. 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. Port SA submitted a \$24.7 million request for the construction of a greenway extension connecting existing Leon Creek trails and a complete streets conversion along Billy Mitchell and Gen. Hudnell.

Planning funds are also available under the Reconnecting Communities Program. VIA Metropolitan Transit submitted a \$2 million request to identify and vision an improved transit system with more frequent and faster service to help create an interconnected multimodal network. UTSA developed a request for planning and design of pedestrian improvements to better connect San Antonio's Westside community to the UTSA Downtown campus and new data science building downtown.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities

\$200 million available in FY 2022 to carry out projects that increase resilience and public safety,

reduce injuries and loss of life, and reduce damage and destruction to property, critical services, facilities, and infrastructure. Fund may also be used to conduct capability and capacity-building activities to improve hazard mitigation. The City's Office of Emergency Management, Public Works and Office of Sustainability are exploring projects for submittal. Application for the BRIC program also requires coordination with the Texas Department of Emergency Management. The deadline to submit is January 27, 2023.

Airport Terminals Program

\$1 billion available in FY 2023 for projects that will improve airfield safety through terminal relocation, replace aging facilities, increase capacity, encourage competition, improve energy efficiency, and increase or improve access to passengers with disabilities and historically disadvantaged populations. San Antonio International Airport will compete with other medium hub airports for up to \$145,500,000 annually. The Aviation department is preparing to submit a new request to the program. The deadline to submit is October 24, 2022.

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity

The FY 2023 RAISE notice of funding opportunity is expected to be released in November. RAISE funds are available for surface transportation projects that have a significant local or regional impact, such as – highway, bridge, or road projects; public transportation projects; and passenger and freight rail projects. The City's Transportation department is exploring a proposed project.

Thriving Communities

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Thriving Communities Program aims to ensure that disadvantaged communities adversely or disproportionately affected by environmental, climate, and human health policy outcomes have the technical tools and organizational capacity to compete for federal aid and deliver quality infrastructure projects. DOT is making available two-years of in-depth technical assistance, planning and capacity building support to teams of community entities that lack the staffing of technical expertise to apply for and deliver infrastructure projects. Additionally, grant funds are being made available to capacity builder organizations to provide the technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support offered by Thriving Communities. Entities interested in receiving technical assistance must submit a letter of interest by December 6, 2022. Applications to receive funding as a capacity builder are due on November 22, 2022

ISSUE:

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law represents a significant increase in infrastructure funding. Government Affairs is providing regular updates to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee on BIL developments.

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.