



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: February 21, 2023

In Control: Transportation and Mobility Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Public Works Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Razi Hosseini

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant and Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) Programs

SUMMARY:

Update on the City's efforts to obtain funding for the 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program and Texas Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program

In late 2022, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) released the notice of funding opportunity for the Fiscal Year 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and December 2022 appropriations package provided the RAISE program a total of \$2.275 billion for FY 2023. The

RAISE program is designed to fund surface transportation projects with significant local or regional impact and those that improve transportation infrastructure. The application due date is February 28, 2023.

City staff has identified a project and intends to submit an estimated \$7.7 million planning grant application for a 4.9 mile portion of the Culebra Road corridor between General McMullen Road and I-410 (Loop 410). If awarded, the grant will be used to perform planning and preliminary engineering and environmental analysis for a roadway redesign that would improve safety, reliability, transit options and enhance the user experience for pedestrians, drivers and other users. The Transportation, Public Works, and Government Affairs departments are working with Transystems, a transportation consulting firm, to assist in developing the grant application.

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) Program

On December 2, 2022, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) announced a statewide Call for Projects for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) program 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. Preliminary applications of a two-step process were due on January 27, 2023.

The Public Works Department identified and submitted preliminary applications for three potential qualifying projects totaling \$36 million for funding consideration for construction and expanding scope. The projects include Market Street/Dolorosa Street Cycle Track (Flores Street to IH 37), Old Highway 90 (SH 151 to Leon Creek Bridge) and Citywide Accessible Barriers Removal Program. If selected, staff will be notified in March 2023 of the projects eligible for submission of a detailed application in June 2023. Awards tentatively anticipated to be announced in October 2023.

ISSUE:

The City of San Antonio developed and is executing a strategy to maximize federal awards to benefit the community. The upcoming RAISE and TA applications are consistent with City policy to apply for grants to enhance service delivery and support the City's resiliency by supplementing local funds.

Staff will be briefing the Transportation and Mobility Committee on RAISE grant program and Texas Department of Transportation's TA programs.

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.