



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Future Item for the City Council Meeting of May 27, 2014
Action Item for the City Council Meeting of June 10, 2014

DATE: May 13, 2014

TO: Ronald L. Olson, City Manager

THRU: Gustavo Gonzalez, P. E., Assistant City Manager for Public Works & Utilities
gustavogo@cctexas.com
(361) 826-3897

FROM: Daniel Biles, P. E., Executive Director of Public Works
danb@cctexas.com
(361) 826-3729

**Resolution supporting submission of a grant application
For the Harbor Bridge Livable Community Plan**

CAPTION:

Resolution supporting submission of a grant application to the United States Department of Transportation for a "Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery" (TIGER) Discretionary Grant for the Harbor Bridge Livable Community Plan; in the amount of \$1,000,000.

PURPOSE:

This resolution confirms City Council support of a grant application in connection with the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) "Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery" (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure. This grant is to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

USDOT invites governments to apply for TIGER grants for projects that support reliable, safe and affordable transportation options which improve connections for both urban and rural communities. Grant recipients will be selected on the following five primary criteria: state of good repair, economic competitiveness, quality of life, environmental sustainability and safety.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will replace the Harbor Bridge, with design scheduled to be underway in Summer 2015. Federal, state, and local stakeholders have committed over \$700 million to the project and construction is scheduled to be completed by 2020. Removal of the existing structure will eliminate a barrier that has physically and socio-economically divided the north end of the City of Corpus Christi from the downtown area. It will also create a large area of abandoned right of way. Recently renamed the Sports Entertainment and Arts (SEA) District, this area under and around the Harbor Bridge is bordered by the Port of Corpus Christi (Port) and other industrial users, and is in close proximity to the Hillcrest and Washington Coles neighborhoods.

A comprehensive approach to redevelopment is needed in aftermath of the Harbor Bridge replacement. The Harbor Bridge Livable Community Plan will focus on balancing and improving the needs of industrial, commercial, and residential areas. Without a strategic plan rooted in sustainability, the opportunity to benefit lower income households and businesses, generate positive environmental impacts, and mend a transportation network to become more efficient may be lost. This grant application, if successful, will fund the activities needed to create an integrated plan that will address the needs of the area's diverse users.

The City's goal is to lay the foundation for an economically vibrant and unified area. The Harbor Bridge Livable Community Plan will be an important step to realizing this goal by implementing a comprehensive and coordinated planning process. The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) VI and local funds will be used to develop Access Management, Corridor, Housing, Public and Open Space, and Economic Development sub-plans. The goal of these sub-plans will be to create a community that is attractive to a diverse neighborhood of people, economically productive and environmentally responsible.

The planning effort will be focused on defining a roadmap for implementation. To be successful, the strategic plans will be financially feasible and community driven, with the ability to leverage local investments and resources.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve resolution in support of grant submission. (Recommended)
2. Do not approve resolution in support of grant submission. (Not recommended)

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

Total cost for the Harbor Bridge Livable Community Plan is \$1,000,000. Federal funding will cover a maximum of 80 percent of Project. The maximum federal award requires at least a 20% local match. The proposed local match is 40% in amount of \$400,000. The match for this grant, if received, will come from the Bond 2012 Proposition 8 project for Seatown Pedestrian Improvements valued at \$600,000.

CONFORMITY TO CITY POLICY:

Not applicable.

EMERGENCY / NON-EMERGENCY:

Non-Emergency

DEPARTMENTAL CLEARANCES:

Not applicable

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Operating

Revenue

Capital

Not applicable at this time.

Fiscal Year: 2013-2014	Project to Date Expenditures (CIP only)	Current Year	Future Years	TOTALS
Line Item Budget				
Encumbered / Expended Amount				
This item				
BALANCE				

Fund(s):

Comments: None

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the resolution as presented is requested in support of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) VI grant submission.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Resolution
Grant Application
Study Area Map