



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting May 16, 2023

DATE: May 16, 2023
TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager
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Resolution in Support of the Application to the Texas Department of Transportation's
2023 Transportation Alternatives Set-aside (TA) Call for Projects

CAPTION:

Resolution supporting the City of Corpus Christi's application to the Texas Department of Transportation's 2023 Transportation Alternatives Set-aside (TA) call for projects for the Holly Road Train Trestle to Tourism Trail Project.

SUMMARY:

This resolution supports the City's application for the 2023 Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) program call for projects for an amount of approximately \$10 million. The application includes funding for engineering design, permitting, and construction of the Holly Road train trestle bridge and connections between existing hike and bike facilities on the east side of Oso Bay and Flour Bluff Drive on the west side of the bay. If selected for funding, this project is eligible for Transportation Development Credits (TDCs), allowing for 100% TA funding without any local match requirements.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

On December 2, 2022, TxDOT announced a statewide Call for Projects for the TA program for bicyclist and pedestrian infrastructure and planning. The City successfully completed the first of two phases for the 2023 Call for Projects and has been invited by TxDOT to submit a detailed application package by the June 5, 2023, deadline.

There is \$200 million in available funding for 'Large Scale Active Transportation Infrastructure' projects. Projects are eligible for reimbursement for construction and engineering costs in communities of any size and may range between \$5 million and \$25 million related to:

- Bicycle infrastructure improvements
- Shared use paths
- Sidewalk improvements
- Infrastructure-related projects to improve safety for non-motorized transportation
- Construction of boulevards and other roadways that are located primarily in the right-of-way

of divided highways and that improve access for bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit users and do not reduce on-system roadway capacity.

TxDOT has highlighted several focus areas for the 2023 TA Call for Projects, including projects that construct segments identified as part of the Texas Bicycle Tourism Trails network or implement a locally preferred alternate route. In addition, projects that reflect a high degree of collaboration and community consensus while directly contributing to the department's safety, mobility, and connectivity goals are strongly encouraged.

Both the Flour Bluff Area Development Plan and the Southside Area Development Plan, adopted in 2021 and 2020, respectively, identify the Oso Bay Trestle Bridge Hike and Bike trail as an important public investment project with strong community support. The voters further expressed support for this project when they approved the 2022 Bond Package that included \$500,000 for the preliminary design and investigation to convert the damaged railroad crossing to an ADA-accessible hike and bike trail.

In addition, the Flour Bluff Citizens Council successfully obtained a technical assistance grant from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program in 2022. This grant project engaged the community in the planning process to extend the existing trail system as well as improve recreation and conservation efforts in Flour Bluff. The future trail system will be located throughout Flour Bluff connecting various natural areas on the Encinal Peninsula. These future improvements could serve as vital recreation, active transportation, and nature education resources for area residents and visitors to Corpus Christi.

ALTERNATIVES:

Staff did not consider any alternatives to applying for this grant. Council may direct staff not to apply the 2023 TxDOT TA program call for projects.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact currently.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the resolution to support the City's application for the 2023 TxDOT TA program.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Agenda Memo – 2023 TxDOT TA Program Application
Resolution – 2023 TxDOT TA Program Application
Presentation – 2023 TxDOT TA Program Application