



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting March 22, 2022

DATE: March 22, 2022

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

FROM: Maria Gomez-Molina, Interim-Director of Public Works
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Approval to submit a grant application to the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization for TxDOT Category 9 funding available under the Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Set-Aside (STBG-SA)

CAPTION:

Resolution ratifying the submission of a grant application for five (5) multimodal pedestrian safety and mobility-focused transportation projects located citywide to the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization for TxDOT's Category 9 funding available under the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Set-Aside (STBG-SA) program authorized under the FAST Act of 2015.

SUMMARY:

\$4.5 million in federal funding is available from United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) passed through TxDOT under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (2015). The funding is for regional surface transportation projects with the primary mission of delivering innovative local transportation projects via an accelerated project delivery timeline. TxDOT has identified the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) as the local regional agency responsible for conducting the competitive project selection process. The City's application for the STBG-SA program was submitted on March 1, 2022 in keeping with the CCMPO's deadline.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

In 2015, President Obama signed into law the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which replaced the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) enacted in 2012 with the Surface Transportation Block Grant set-aside (STBG-SA) funding program

(Category 9). In accordance with the FAST Act, the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) will award projects using a performance-based competitive selection process. Only projects that are consistent with the Corpus Christi Adopted 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2045 MTP) will be selected for award. The minimum project award is \$50,000 for non-infrastructure projects and \$200,000 for infrastructure construction projects.

Eligible projects under the FAST Act encompass a variety of smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to school projects, community improvements such as historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat maintenance.

In an effort to increase the safety of pedestrians near and around schools, the Public Works Department seeks approval to submit an application for reimbursement funding for a total of five infrastructure construction projects. The five projects are:

1. District 1: Oak Park ES Route to School- Leopard Street and Oak Park Avenue Pedestrian Improvements - Project Cost: \$739,858
2. District 2: Ocean Drive Pedestrian Crossing Improvements- (Oleander Point at Cole Park) - Project Cost: \$417,693
3. District 3: Mary Carroll HS Safe Route to School – Mary Carroll Ditch Hike and Bike Trail Improvements - Project Cost: \$1,168,105
4. District 4: Seashore Learning Center Safe Route to School – Encantada Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvements - Project Cost: \$894,240
5. District 5: Brooke Road/Master Channel Pedestrian Improvements - Project Cost: \$1,239,435

For projects selected by the CCMPO, the City of Corpus Christi is responsible for completing all pre-construction activities (design, environmental clearance, right-of-way and utility relocation/coordination) with local funds. CCMPO Category 9 funds can then be used to reimburse the City for 80% of eligible costs that were paid by the City.

Construction inspection and management activities associated with approved projects are eligible uses of CCMPO Category 9 funds. Any costs exceeding the total amount awarded are the responsibility of the City.

Category 9 is not a grant program in that no money is provided upfront. Approved costs are reimbursed only after an Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) between TxDOT and the City of Corpus Christi is authorized by the project sponsor's governing body. If awarded, Public Works will return to Council to accept the award and identify the required 20% local cash match for the projects.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should City Council not approve submission, the Public Works Department will not submit an STBG-SA application to the CCPMO. The projects will be constructed and only begin once an alternate funding source authorized.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total amount of the city's request is \$4,459,333.22. The grant requires a cash match equivalent to 20% of eligible construction, projects management, and construction inspections costs plus 100% of all costs related to project design to be provided by the City of Corpus Christi,

If awarded, subsequent approval will be solicited from Council to accept and authorize the required local cash matches of up to \$891,866 to effectuate those projects. Upon award, the Public Works Department will request City Council's approval to accept awarded funds, identify cash match funding sources, and authorize a program budget.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund:	N/A
Organization/Activity:	N/A
Mission Element:	N/A
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A
Account:	N/A
Amount:	N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval to submit the STBG-SA application and all required documents to the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Set-Aside (STBG-SA) call for projects issued January 6, 2022.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Resolution
STBG-SA Application & Required Documentation
Project List & Cost Estimates
Project Exhibits
Presentation