

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

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| Austin City Council | Item ID | 45241 | Agenda Number | 19. |
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| Meeting Date: | 5/21/2015 | Department: | Transportation |
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Subject

Approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery competitive grant program for funding for improvements to North Lamar Boulevard and Burnet Road.

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required

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| Purchasing Language: | |
| Prior Council Action: | |
| For More Information: | Robert Spillar, 512-974-2488, Laura Dierenfield, 512-974-7189, Marisol Benton, 512-974-7118 |
| Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action: | |
| MBE / WBE: | |
| Related Items: | |

Additional Backup Information

Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has announced that \$500 million is available for transportation projects under the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Pub. L. 113-235, December 16, 2014) for National Infrastructure Investments. The program is referred to as the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program. TIGER 2015 discretionary grants will fund capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure. Final applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM E.D.T. on June 5, 2015.

Eligible projects for TIGER Discretionary Grants are capital projects that include, but are not limited to: (1) Highway or bridge projects eligible under title 23, United States Code (including bicycle and pedestrian related projects); (2) public transportation projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code; (3) passenger and freight rail

transportation projects; (4) port infrastructure investments (including inland port infrastructure); and (5) intermodal projects.

TIGER Discretionary Grants are highly competitive. Projects will be evaluated for project readiness, benefits and costs, and cost share. Federal funds may be used for up to 80 percent of the cost of a project. DOT will consider non-Federal funds as a local match. Grant awards may not be less than \$10 million and not greater than \$200 million.

Projects are evaluated under two tiers of selection criteria. Primary selection criteria require projects to: (1) improve safety for all modes of transportation and users; (2) improve the condition and resilience of existing transportation facilities and systems; (3) contribute to economic competitiveness; (4) increase transportation choices and access; and (5) contribute to environmental sustainability. Secondary selection criteria require projects to incorporate innovative approaches and seek partnerships.

North Lamar Boulevard /Burnet Road Corridor Enhancements

This project proposes to address safety, mobility and quality of life for people who live, work and travel along Burnet Road from Koenig Lane to Loop 1 (MoPac) and North Lamar Boulevard between US 183 and IH 35. 2012 bond funding dedicated to these corridors will be used as matching funds to address short-term recommendations as called for in the North Lamar Boulevard /Burnet Corridor Development Program. Improvements include intersection and arterial improvements, pedestrian crossing improvements and bus stop improvements. A significant portion of residents along Burnet and North Lamar Boulevard corridors are dependent on transportation modes such as walking and transit. Much of this area is also identified as an Environmental Justice (EJ) area of concern meaning that the corridor includes neighborhoods with high concentrations of low-income or minority residents. The City of Austin may partner with the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Cap Metro) to submit one TIGER grant application. Capital Metro seeks to implement improvements along the existing MetroRapid routes, inclusive of the above mentioned North Lamar Boulevard and Burnet Road corridors.