

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	54115	Agenda Number	49.
Meeting Date:	1/28/2016		Department:	Transportation
Subject				
<p>Approve a resolution supporting the City of Austin application for U.S. Department of Transportation "Beyond Traffic: The Smart City Challenge" grant opportunity and authorizing the City Manager to accept and expend the \$100,000 award from the U.S. Department of Transportation in the event the City is selected as a finalist in the Smart City Challenge.</p>				
Amount and Source of Funding				
Fiscal Note				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:				
For More Information:	Robert Spillar 512-974-2488, Karla Taylor 512-974-7246, Marisol Benton 512-974-7118			
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:				
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				
Additional Backup Information				
<p>The U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) in December 2015 issued a \$40 Million Smart City Challenge to award a grant to one city to demonstrate how advanced data and intelligent transportation systems (ITS) technologies and applications can be used to reduce congestion, keep travelers safe, protect the environment, respond to climate change, connect underserved communities, and support economic vitality.</p> <p>Vulcan Philanthropy is offering an additional \$10 million to the winning city to support infrastructure for Electric Vehicles (EVs) and infrastructure.</p> <p>Mobileye will also install driver assistance safety technology on every bus to the winning community's public transportation system company.</p> <p>The priority technology elements listed by the US DOT solicitation focuses on urban automation, connected vehicles and intelligent, sensor based-infrastructure.</p> <p>In March 2016, the US DOT will select five finalist cities with the best ideas and ability to implement the ideas within a three year time frame.</p> <p>The USDOT will grant each finalist city a \$100,000 stipend to complete the ideas, development of technical demonstration plans and budget plan documents for their final submission.</p>				

Cost sharing or matching funds are not required for the concept development or final submission, but it will be encouraged and considered beneficial for the full application due in May 2016. These funds need not be City of Austin jurisdictional funds and could consist of state, regional, or even private investments made cooperatively with this grant submission. The US DOT will announce an award to the winning city in June 2016.

The City of Austin is the applicant for this grant, and has been working cooperatively with the Texas Department of Transportation, Capital Metro, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, the University of Texas Center for Transportation Research, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, the Southwest Research Institute, and Texas State University along with non-profit organizations and private sector companies to deliver a proposal that demonstrates our unique technology capabilities.

The high level concepts being proposed in this grant include:

1. Consumer-facing deployment of connected, automated vehicle mobility services
2. Electrification of high-mileage fleet vehicles
3. Intelligent, sensor based infrastructure
4. Creation of advanced mobility hubs
5. Pilot of "one-card" multi-modal mobility service
6. Expanded one-system approach to Regional Transportation Management
7. Advanced operations and research
8. Data research and open data portal
9. Traveler information hub

If chosen as a finalist city, the US DOT will work with our local team to refine the elements of the final proposal. We believe that the draft proposal, due February 4, will improve access to affordability, encourage ladders of success for underserved communities by expanding access to cheap and reliable mobility, provide an opportunity for industry-wide learning and early adoption of new technologies in Austin, and improve our local and regional mobility systems.