



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-2174, **Agenda Item #:** 181.

6/20/2019

Posting Language

Approve a resolution authorizing the submittal of a transportation project as a candidate for the US Department of Transportation (US DOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Transportation Discretionary Grant administered by the US DOT.

Lead Department

Austin Transportation Department

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

The City of Austin seeks funding for a transportation project from the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development, or "BUILD" Transportation grant program. Funds for the FY 2019 BUILD Transportation grants program are to be awarded on a competitive basis for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. There is an estimated \$900,000,000 of available federal funding for FY 2019 BUILD Transportation grants, the maximum grant award is \$25,000,000, and no more than \$90,000,000 can be awarded to a single State.

Per the resolution under consideration for this item, Council authorizes the City Manager to submit an application for the design and reconstruction of the Redbud Trail (Emmet Shelton) Bridge. The project limits are from Lake Austin Blvd to Stratford Drive with an estimated project costs of \$56,000,000. '

If awarded, the City Manager is directed to identify available financial options required for local match including, but not limited to, Bond Funds, General Fund/Operations, issuance of Certificates of Obligation, or inter-local partnerships. Council hereby commits to fund local match for all projects awarded in which the City will enter into an agreement for award with the US DOT. Staff will return to Council to seek authorization to enter into an advance funding agreement with TxDOT to accept the award.

Background:

The Redbud Trail (Emmet Shelton) Bridge, built in 1948 consist of two bridges (400 feet and 120 feet long) linking the east and west banks of Lady Bird Lake with Redbud Isle in the middle. The bridges carry over 16,000 vehicles per day and provide the exclusive route for construction and operational truck traffic to and from the City's Ulrich Water Treatment Plant. The primary structure has experienced substructure degradation; contributing factors requiring replacement include increased traffic loads, steel fatigue life, history of sour remediation, narrow traffic lanes, and insufficient bicycle/pedestrian paths on roadway shoulders. The western roadway approach has a steep, sharp curve and is unaligned with the bridge, and has significant traffic collision history. In order to meet current standards, the City desires the one replacement bridge to be

longer, higher (low chord above the 100-year flood event), and with an expanded cross section. The bridge will also maintain access to Redbud Isle.

Final applications are due on July 15, 2019.