



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-3286, Agenda Item #: 17.

11/3/2022

Posting Language

Approve a resolution authorizing the submission of a planning proposal to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation Grants Program, Stage 1, established to provide grants to eligible public sector agencies focused on advancing smart community technologies.

Lead Department:

Austin Transportation Department.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

The Austin Transportation Department (ATD) intends to submit a planning proposal for the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program Stage 1. The demonstration project will allow for planning, creation, and implementation of a natural language processor and supporting natural language dictionary and database as a framework by which non-sensitive data can be extracted from dispatch systems and immutably transmitted to other first responders, essential services, and others responsible for the incident scene or the operational design domains within the scene.

The U.S. Department of Transportation Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation Grants Program (SMART) discretionary grant program with up to \$2,000,000 per award for the current Stage 1 Planning Notice of Funding Opportunity. The SMART program was established to provide grants to eligible public sector agencies to conduct demonstration projects focused on advanced smart community technologies and systems to improve transportation efficiency and safety.

More than half (56%) of Austin's congestion is attributable to crashes, more than double the national average. Innovation is required to improve the safety of the roadway, protect and enhance our communities, limit or eliminate the environmental impacts, and increase transportation access.

The outcomes of this grant will be used by first responders in the field and Austin Mobility Management Center operators to identify key needs, such as equipment and support services during emergencies. If awarded, ATD will submit a request for Council consideration to accept and appropriate the funds.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Mobility, Safety.