

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 09/17/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0787

LOG NAME: 20RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES GRANT

SUBJECT

(CD 8, CD 9 and CD 11) Authorize Application for and Acceptance of, if Awarded, the Reconnecting Communities Grant from the United States Department of Transportation in the Amount Up to \$2,500,000.00; Authorize Execution of a Federal Grant Agreement with the United States Department of Transportation for a Planning and Environmental Linkages Study to Evaluate Major Barriers in the Southeast Crescent Area of the City Situated to the Southeast of Downtown Fort Worth and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize application for and acceptance of, if awarded, the Reconnecting Communities Grant from the United States Department of Transportation in the amount up to \$2,500,000.00;
 2. Authorize execution of a Federal Grant Agreement with the United States Department of Transportation for The Reconnecting Communities Grant for a Planning and Environmental Linkages study; and
 3. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Federal Fund, subject to the receipt of the grant, in an amount up to \$2,000,000.00 for the purpose of funding a Planning and Environmental Linkages study.
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DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize staff's application for and acceptance of, if awarded, the Reconnecting Communities Grant in the amount of \$2,500,000.00 to explore reconnecting the southeast crescent that was split apart when Interstate 35W, US-287 and State Highway 121 were constructed.

The Reconnecting Communities Grant (RCG) is part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law enacted by Congress to advance community-centered transportation with a priority on projects that benefit disadvantaged communities. The RCG program focuses on improving access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature, and recreation. The application deadline is September 30, 2024 and it is unknown when the notice of award will be communicated.

The City of Fort Worth is seeking a \$2,500,000.00 grant to conduct and lead a Planning and Environmental Linkages Study to evaluate the major barriers in the southeast crescent area of the city situated to the southeast of Downtown Fort Worth, which is bisected by several barriers. The focus of the study will be to evaluate mitigation measures for the impacts that these man-made barriers have created and to spur economic development, increase access to services, food, healthcare, and improve Americans with Disabilities Act access.

The City will be responsible for providing a 20% local match or \$500,000.00 as part of the reimbursement grant. A separate M&C will be presented to Council once funding has been identified for the grant match requirement. Should no funding be available then the Transportation and Public Works Department will not accept the grant award and be responsible for all costs incurred.

The Planning and Environmental Linkages study is located in COUNCIL DISTRICT 8, 9 and, 11.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This contract will be with a governmental entity, state agency or public institution of higher education: US Department of Transportation

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinances, funds will be available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, in the Grants Operating Federal Fund. The Transportation and Public Works Department (and Financial Management Services) will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Transportation and Public Works Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is a reimbursement grant.

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Expedited