

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 28, 2023

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Update on Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act Funding**

The Office of Government Affairs continues to work with partner departments to identify potential projects and submit competitive grant applications for programs included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, also commonly referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (IIJA or BIL). BIL is a five-year authorization of new and existing grant programs aimed at improving the nation's core infrastructure needs.

As we head into Year 2 of federal implementation of BIL, City staff will update the Opportunity Projects list based on lessons learned and feedback from federal agencies. The Opportunity Projects list identifies projects that are likely to be a good fit for BIL grant programs. It is not a ranked or prioritized list, and is focused on programs where the City is likely to be an eligible applicant. The current list is attached. Please send any requested changes or additional projects to Dina Colarossi at dina.colarossi@dallas.gov.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Activities

To date, the City has taken the following actions for BIL funding since the last update to Council on December 23, 2022:

Grant Applications Awarded

- Affordable Connectivity Program Outreach Grant Program – \$700,000
 - This grant will provide funding for a media campaign and outreach events to increase enrollment in the Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides subsidy for broadband internet service for eligible households. Dallas County, DISD, and the Dallas Housing Authority are partners, and will be subrecipients on this grant. It is expected to come to Council for approval within 30 days of receiving the grant contract from the FCC, currently projected for an agenda date in May.
- Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Program
 - The City was selected as a finalist for planning and community outreach assistance in the Westmoreland Heights/Lake West neighborhood to integrate transportation, housing, and economic development initiatives, however was ultimately not selected to receive the assistance.

Grant Applications Submitted

- RAISE
 - Submitted an application for planning and design for 5 Mile Creek Trail, in partnership with the Trust for Public Land

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- Submitted a planning application for a City-wide Freight Mobility Study
- Partnered with NCTCOG on their application for continued infrastructure needs for the Southern Gateway Park
- Partnered with NCTCOG on their application for expansion of Klyde Warren Park

Other Pending Applications

- Brownfields
 - An Assessment grant and a Revolving Loan Fund grant to provide environmental assessments and cleanup assistance for eligible projects in the Fair Park/South Dallas area
- Railroad Crossing Elimination Program
 - Westmoreland Road Grade Separation to eliminate at-grade crossings with Union Pacific (UP) and DGNO tracks
 - Skyline Bridge Grade Crossing Elimination to provide an alternate to an at-grade crossing for LOOP Trail users in partnership with the Circuit Trail Conservancy
 - A partnership with NCTCOG on their application to eliminate the at-grade crossing on Prairie Creek near the UP Intermodal Facility
- WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
 - Dallas Water Utilities implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure
- Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure
 - A partnership with Crown Castle on their application to build out middle mile broadband infrastructure to connect underserved communities and anchor institutions

Award announcements for all programs listed above are expected in Spring 2023.

Planned Grant Applications

- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants – due Summer 2023
 - Funds planning and implementation for projects that increase energy efficiency and conservation. The City of Dallas is expected to receive \$1.13M under this program, and staff has convened a working group to identify the best uses for this one-time funding.
- Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant – due May 30
 - Funds charging infrastructure for electric and other alternative fuel vehicles with a focus on historically disadvantaged communities. The City will join a regional application led by NCTCOG.
- TxDOT Transportation Alternatives Program – due June 5
 - Planning for improved multi-modal connectivity in the Esperanza Neighborhood
 - Planning for improved pedestrian and bike connectivity for the area surrounding I-635/Skillman bridge
 - Construction of 1.2 miles of shared-use path on the 5 Mile Creek Trail from Westmoreland Rd. to S. Hampton Rd.

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- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) – due July 10
 - Resubmission of NCTCOG’s FY22 application for the Martin Luther King, Jr./Cedar Crest Blvd Complete Street and Safety Upgrades project. The City will be the lead applicant for the FY23 application.

Inflation Reduction Act Activities

In addition to BIL, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) also authorized several grant programs and tax credits the City can access to meet our climate and energy efficiency goals. Most programs funded by IRA are still in the planning stages, and Office of Government Affairs staff is actively monitoring for opportunities to comment on programs as they are being developed, and for information and guidance for grants and tax credits as they are released.

To date, the City has taken the following actions for IRA funding:

Planned Grant Applications

- Climate Pollution Reduction Grants – due Spring 2023
 - Funds the development of a plan to cover the DFW Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). NCTCOG will be the lead applicant for the MSA, and the City will partner on the application and the development of the plan.
- USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry – due June 1
 - Funds an array of forestry projects, including planning, workforce development, and enhancements to tree canopy and urban forests

We will continue to keep City Council updated as BIL and IRA programs advance in the coming months and years. If you have any questions, please contact me or Dina Colarossi, Fund Development Manager, at dina.colarossi@dallas.gov.



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Director
Office of Government Affairs

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Chris Caso, City Attorney
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Dr. Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager
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