



Legislation Text

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Federal Highway Administration Transportation, Community and System Preservation Grant Program (NB)

This is a request for the City Commission to authorize staff to submit grant applications to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the funding of the SW 6th Street Reconstruction project.

The FHWA Transportation, Community and System Preservation (TCSP) Grant Program is a competitive grant opportunity that provides funding to projects that promote sustainability, livability and economic vitality. There is a total of \$29 million available in the program for national distribution; given the limited amount of funds available FHWA encourages the submission of 'modest-size' requests to allow more States to receive a share of the funds. The grant requires a 20% local match.

The SW 6th Street Reconstruction extends from SW 16th Avenue to West University Avenue. The project includes the addition of medians, on-street bicycle lanes, on-street parking, bulb-outs at intersections to improve pedestrian safety, turn lanes, intersection reconfiguration at SW 4th Avenue with the addition of pedestrian refuge, and installation of low impact design elements such as bioswales and rain gardens. The project is currently partially funded, with \$1.5 million allocated in FY12 of the Capital Improvement Plan. The project is identified as a priority in the Transportation Improvement Plan and is located at the eastern boundary of the Innovation District. The project meets all of the criteria of the grant program including:

Livability - it is an integral piece in the development of the Innovation District and the urban core improving access to a future mixed-use employment/residential center; it incorporates complete streets concepts to improve access, connectivity and safety; and low impact design strategies to improve water quality and reduce environmental impacts;

State of good repair - reconstruction of the corridor will address current pavement deficiencies and improve operational conditions;

Expeditious completion - the project does not require acquisition of rights-of-way and can be completed within 18 to 24 months of award;

Leveraging of funding and award request - the City has allocated \$1.5 million to this project in the FY12 of the Capital Improvement Plan, which represents a local match of 25%, exceeding the grant requirements. The modest size of the request may be a favorable component in the evaluation of the proposal. The City is requesting \$4.5 million in funding.

There are no fiscal impacts for FY12. There are sufficient funds in the CIP to meet the match requirement.

The City Commission authorize the City Manager or designee to execute the grant applications, grant awards and any other necessary documents pending review by the City Attorney as necessary.