

Agenda Item Details

Meeting	Feb 22, 2023 - Bryan City Council Special Meeting
Category	4. Regular Agenda - This agenda consists of items requiring individual consideration by Council.
Subject	C. Adoption of a resolution of the City of Bryan, Texas, authorizing City staff to submit a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant application to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to request federal funding for capital improvements related to the revitalization of Downtown Bryan
Type	Action
Preferred Date	Feb 22, 2023
Absolute Date	Feb 27, 2023
Fiscal Impact	Yes
Dollar Amount	45,000,000.00
Budgeted	No
Budget Source	Cost Estimates are still being prepared for submittal with the grant application but appear to be close to the \$45,000,000 maximum grant threshold.
Goals	Public Safety Economic Development Infrastructure Quality of Life

Summary:

On December 15, 2022, the United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) released a notice of funding opportunity for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant program, in which \$2.3 billion dollars in discretionary funding would be made available to eligible applicants.

RAISE discretionary grants help project sponsors at the State and local levels, including municipalities, Tribal governments, counties, and others to complete critical freight and passenger transportation infrastructure projects. The eligibility requirements of RAISE allow project sponsors to obtain funding for projects that are harder to support through other U.S. DOT grant programs.

Only Bryan City Council may authorize City staff to submit a RAISE grant application. The grant, if approved, will be in the form of a reimbursement, which requires the City to submit supporting receipts and progress reports. The City will have until the obligation deadline, September 30, 2027, to have a signed and executed grant agreement in place with the U.S. DOT, after receiving the necessary environmental approvals. The expenditure deadline for RAISE grant funding awards is September 30, 2032.

The grant application is due on February 28, 2023.

The primary focus of the grant application is the reconstruction of Bryan Avenue from 24th Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Street and all side streets between Parker Avenue and Main Street. Downtown theme infrastructure will be provided and overhead utilities will be buried underground with landscaping and streetscaping. The limits of the project were increased in three directions. The first was to the west to include reconstruction and enlargement of storm sewer drainage to support the redevelopment of Downtown North terminating where it outfalls into the creek. The second includes Martin Luther King, Jr. Street between the railroad tracks and Texas Avenue for similar infrastructure upgrades. The third includes previously developed blocks south of 24th Street to provide updates, such as pavement markings, spot repairs to concrete and other damaged infrastructure, and to provide comprehensive wayfinding signage throughout downtown.

Four possible resolutions are provided to the Bryan City Council for consideration. The City Council needs to choose one of the resolutions to take action on giving staff direction on whether a local match of funds will be provided for the project. The only differences in the resolutions are the percentages of local match being (0%, 10%, 20%, or any cost overruns of the project beyond the grant award cap of \$45,000,000 will be funded by the City of Bryan). At times, grant applications with local funding matches receive favorable scoring by the reviewing agencies.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

City staff has analyzed the RAISE Grant eligibility guidelines and finds Downtown Bryan, being a high-priority revitalization project for the City, could be a competitive project for federal funding. Per RAISE definitions, the City of Bryan is designated as rural community, allowing for full federal funding with no local cost share required. Capital projects located in rural areas are eligible for maximum funding of \$45,000,000. Four different resolutions are presented to the City Council for consideration and the City Council needs to select one to take action on giving direction to City staff on the amount of local match to offer in the grant application (0%, 10%, 20%, or any cost overruns of the project beyond the grant award cap of \$45,000,000 will be funded by the City of Bryan).

The improvements to Downtown Bryan will produce significant safety, quality of life, connectivity and economic benefits for the residents and users of the corridor. This project will knit together existing investment in the Downtown, specifically by removing and replacing pavement and sidewalks; upgrading water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer infrastructure; installing streetscape and landscaping improvements including pedestrian lighting; and burying all overhead utilities. While the entirety of Downtown Bryan is included in this grant request, the majority of the scope and cost of the project will be within the limits of North Bryan Avenue from West 24th Street to West Martin Luther King, Jr. Street and side streets from North Parker Avenue to North Main Street. These blocks represent the remaining areas that have not been reconstructed with previous Downtown projects. The limits of Martin Luther King, Jr. Street between the railroad tracks and Texas Avenue is included for infrastructure upgrades and the existing phases of Downtown Bryan renovation will receive pavement marking and wayfinding upgrades.

Completion of the scope of the proposed project will complete all remaining phases of infrastructure reconstruction in Downtown Bryan listed in the Capital Improvement Project Database.

Options:

1. Approve a resolution committing the City to fund any cost overruns of the project beyond the grant award cap of \$45,000,000, as recommended by staff;
2. Approve a resolution offering 0% local match;
3. Approve a resolution offering 10% local match;
4. Approve a resolution offering 20% local match, showing an increased desire to the grant decision makers that the City of Bryan is willing to fund a larger portion of the project cost;
5. Modify the resolution (which will require City Council consideration at another special council meeting prior to February 28, 2023); or
6. Do not approve a resolution and provide direction to staff.

Attachments:

1. Resolution committing the City to fund any cost overruns of the project beyond the grant award cap of \$45,000,000
2. Resolution for 100% federal share / 0% local match
3. Resolution for 90% federal share / 10% local match
4. Resolution for 80% federal share / 20% local match
5. Exhibit A - Project Limits

[RES_RAISE Resolution 100 percent federal_w CoB funding overruns.pdf \(278 KB\)](#)

[RES_RAISE Resolution 100 percent federal.pdf \(301 KB\)](#)

[RES_RAISE Resolution 90 percent federal.pdf \(304 KB\)](#)

[RES_RAISE Resolution 80 percent federal.pdf \(304 KB\)](#)

[Exhibit A - Project Limits.pdf \(1,604 KB\)](#)