

Agenda Item Details

Meeting	Jan 09, 2024 - Bryan City Council Second Regular Meeting
Category	6. Statutory (Automatic Approval) Agenda - This agenda consists of items previously approved by Council action such as adoption of items that are part of an approved budget or capital improvement projects, first and only readings of ordinances, interlocal agreements, or action that is required by law or delegated to the City Manager. Items may be removed from the statutory agenda for separate consideration at the request of two Councilmembers.
Subject	D. 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 (US DOT) to request federal funding for capital improvements related to the revitalization of the South College Avenue corridor
Type	Action (Statutory)
Preferred Date	Jan 09, 2024
Absolute Date	Jan 09, 2024
Fiscal Impact	Yes
Dollar Amount	16,750,000.00
Budgeted	Yes
Budget Source	\$36,750,000 Total Project, \$20,000,000 RAISE Grant Request, \$16,750,000 of planned Bond Funds representing a 45% local match. 2026 Bond Funds - \$11,300,000; 2028 Bond Funds - \$950,000; BTU Funds = \$4,500,000
Goals	Quality of Life Public Safety Infrastructure Economic Development

Summary:

On November 30, 2023, the United States Department of Transportation released a notice of funding opportunity for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant program, in which \$1.5 billion dollars in discretionary funding will 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 complete critical freight and passenger transportation infrastructure projects. The eligibility requirements of RAISE allow project sponsors to obtain funding for projects 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, 2028, to have a signed and executed grant agreement in place with the DOT, after receiving the necessary environmental approvals. The expenditure deadline for FY 2024 RAISE grant funding awards is September 30, 2033.

The grant application is due on February 28, 2024.

The primary focus of the grant application is the reconstruction of South College Avenue/South Main Street between Carson and E. 29th Streets. Landscaped medians will run the entire length of South College Avenue, resulting in a safer entry and exit on the street. A six-foot wide sidewalk will line the east side of the street, and a 10-foot wide

shared-use path will line the west side of the street, allowing for multi-modal transportation along the corridor. Water and sanitary sewer lines will be replaced throughout, and storm sewer lines will be upsized to improve major drainage challenges.

The proposed 45% local matching funds is higher than required for this grant where 0, 10, 20% matches are common depending on the applying entity's status. Typically grant applications with significant 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 South College Avenue improvements, 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 an urban community, which typically requires a cost share of 20% local funding and 80% federal funding. However, as the project area is located in a historically disadvantage community (HDC) and an area of persistent poverty (APP) as defined by the Department of Transportation (DOT), full federal funding with no local cost share is possible. Capital projects are eligible for maximum funding of \$25 million dollars. The scope of the South College Avenue project is considered a "Complete Streets" project, including multi-modal options for pedestrians, bicyclists, vehicles, and busses.

The improvements to South College Avenue will produce significant safety, quality of life, connectivity, and economic benefits for the residents and users of the corridor. This project was the number one project noted in the 2020 Midtown Area Plan and will knit together existing investment in Midtown District. The section of South College Avenue south of Villa Maria Road was completed years ago, and currently, the section from Villa Maria Road to Carson Street is under construction.

This proposed project picks up at Carson Street and finishes out the South College Avenue corridor all the way to 29th Street at the entrance to Downtown Bryan. This public reinvestment should help spur private sector reinvestment envisioned in the Midtown Area Plan. Specifically, the scope of the project will reconstruct the roadway in accordance with the schematic concept already prepared, adding new shared use paths and sidewalks for safer bicycle and pedestrian traffic, and upgrading water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer infrastructure, and installing streetscape and landscaping improvements including pedestrian lighting and burying all overhead utilities.

Completion of the scope of the proposed project will complete all remaining phases of infrastructure reconstruction along South College Avenue listed in the Capital Improvement Project Database.

Options:

1. Approve a resolution offering 45% local match totaling \$16,750,000 to be funded from BTU funds and City Bond funds from 2026 and 2028;
2. Modify the resolution (which may require City Council consideration at another special council meeting prior to February 28, 2024); or
3. Do not approve a resolution and provide direction to staff.

Attachments:

1. Resolution for 55% federal share / 45% local match with Exhibit A - Project Limits

RES - Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant.pdf (814 KB)