



Reconnecting Communities through Trail Development

A grant application to the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program for the development of segments of the Paso del Norte Trail to mitigate barriers introduced by US 54 / I-10, US 62, and Texas SH 20

Goal 7. Enhance and Sustain El Paso's Infrastructure Network



Reconnecting Communities Application: Requested Action

A **motion providing City Council support and approval** of the City's submission of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY22 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program for development of the Paso del Norte Trail segment from Magoffin at Cotton to US-54 / I-10 to US-62 at Washington.

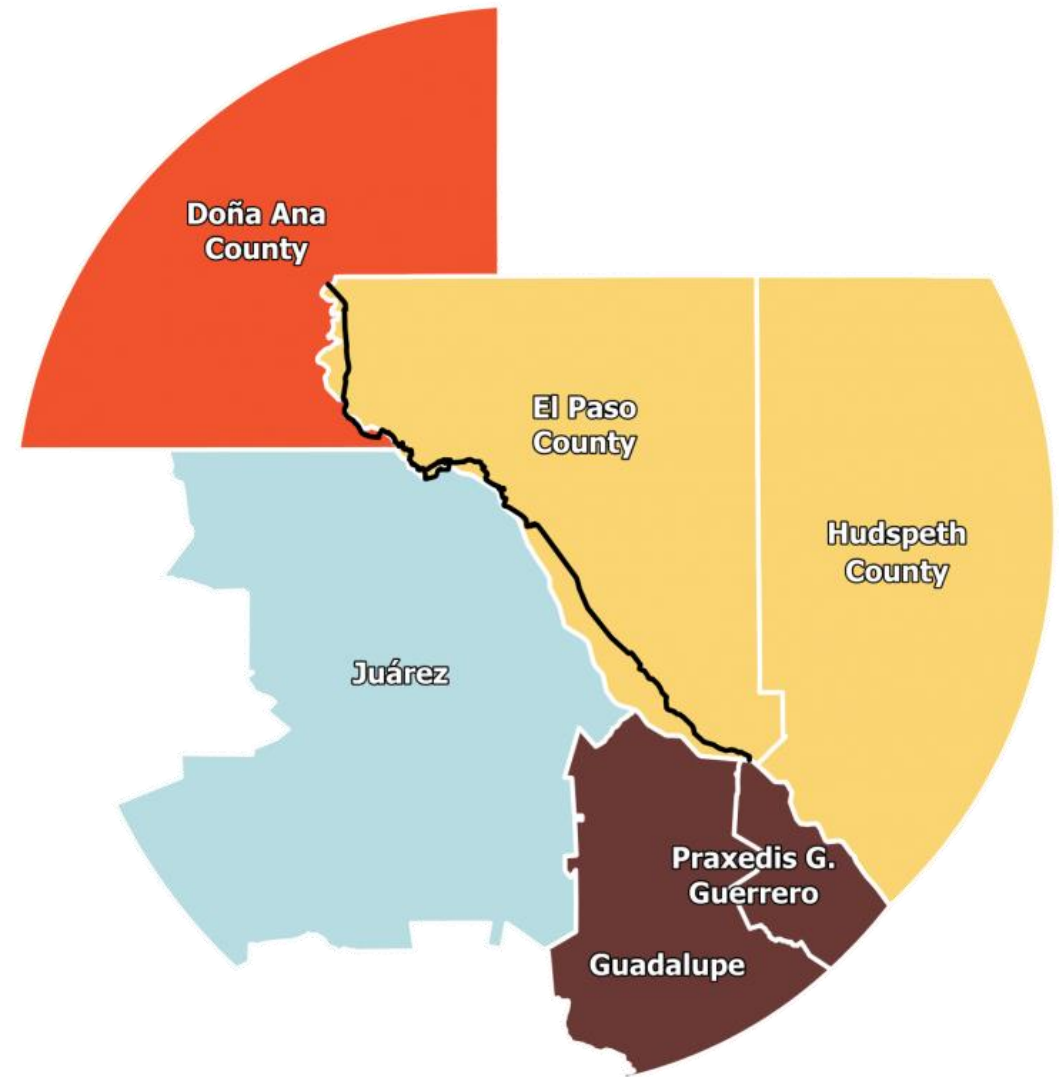
- The City provides technical expertise to develop the project and manage project budget
- The Paso del Norte Health Foundation & the Water Improvement District provide financial capacity and project support
- The application is due on October 13th

Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program

- Established under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation
- First-ever federal program dedicated to **reconnecting communities** that were previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure
- BIL allocates \$1 billion over the next 5 years for planning and capital construction projects to restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation or replacement of eligible transportation infrastructure facilities

The Paso del Norte Trail

- Community-driven, collaborative effort launched in 2017 to develop a county-wide trail in El Paso
- Roughly 68-mile span of trail is divided into 5 distinct districts
- Provides essential connections for residents to businesses, attractions, parks, and downtown areas, including UTEP, Ascarate Park, the Medical Center of Americas, and the El Paso Zoo
- Connector trails and loops provide additional access to natural areas and outdoor spaces such as the Franklin Mountains State Park and the Rio Grande



PDN Trail: Project Impact

- 68 miles of connected trails when completed
- Additional habitat for burrowing owls, pollinators, edible and native plant life, and other wildlife incorporated along the trail, bringing nature closer to the City
- Sustainable stormwater management through installation of bioswales and other water management projects along the trail
- Binational, multi-state, regional reach through Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico
- Improved quality of life through a reduction in urban heat, increased transportation options, and safer outdoor access

Benefits of Trails

Increase
Business

Tourist
Attraction

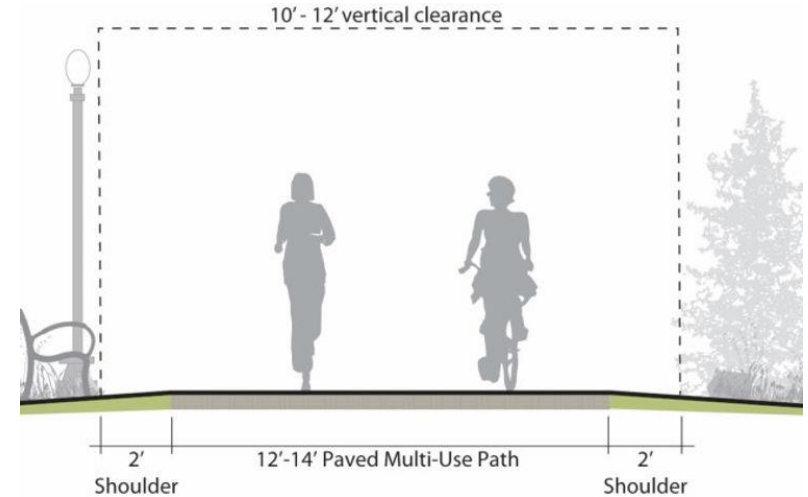
Tax Revenue
Generation

Real Estate
Boost

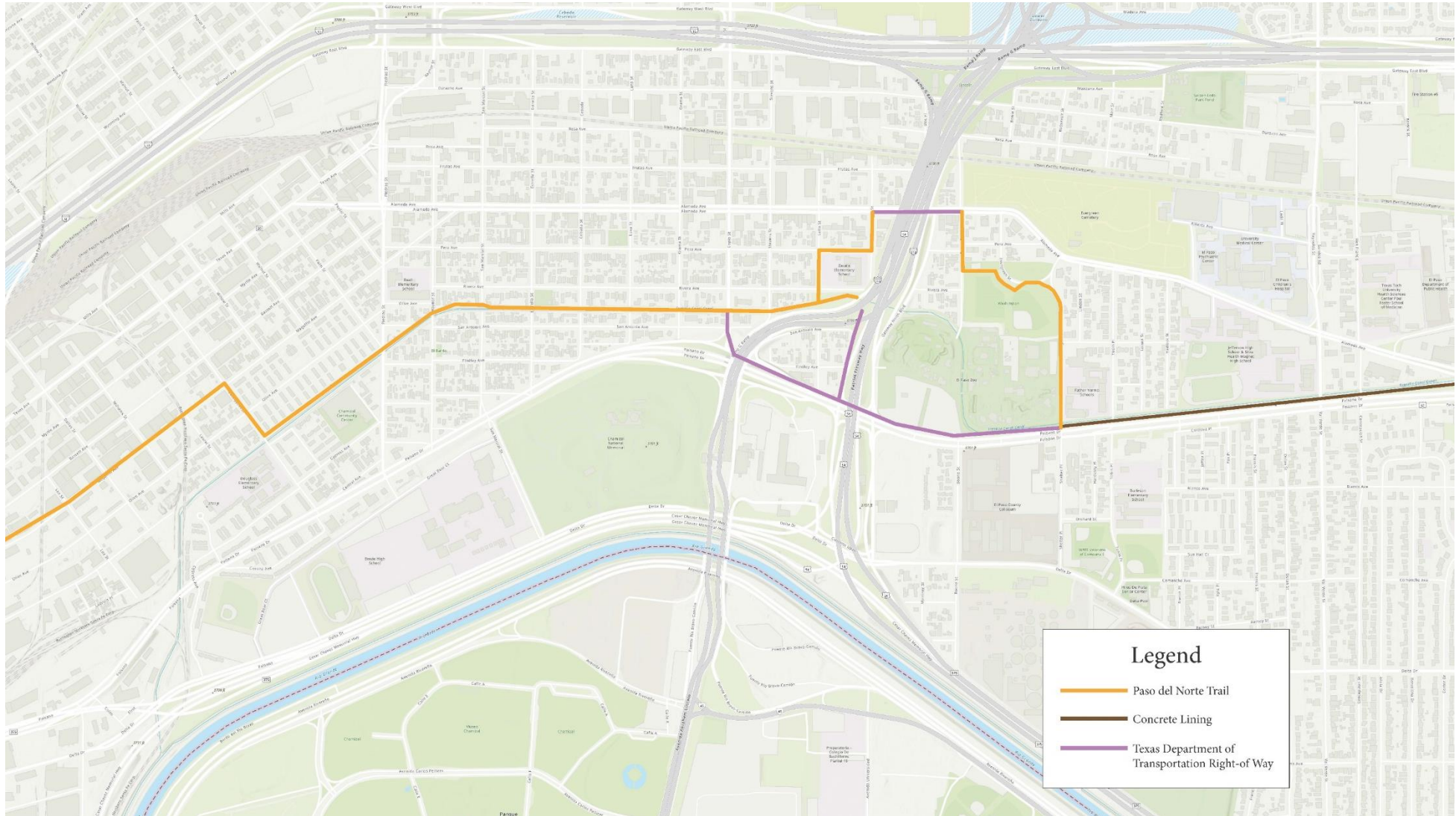
Affordable
Construction

Reconnecting Communities Application (RCP): Scope of Work

- Multiple barriers, including US 54 / I-10 leading to the International Port-of-Entry, US 62, and Texas SH 20, separate neighborhoods that lack connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Address these barriers through the development of a shared use path from Magoffin at Cotton to US 54 / I-110 to US 62 at Washington
 - minimum 10-foot asphalt trail, street trees, landscaping, lighting, textured crosswalks, and other improvements
 - concrete lining of the Franklin Canal
 - traffic calming along Washington
 - amenities at Washington Park along the trail



RCP Application: Project Limits



Project Limits: From Magoffin at Cotton to US-54 / I-10 to US-62 at Washington

Reconnecting Communities Application: Grant Proposal

- Partnership with the Paso del Norte Health Foundation & the El Paso Water Improvement District
 - City of El Paso will be lead applicant, providing technical expertise
 - El Paso Water Improvement District is co-applicant providing in-kind match and facilitating the development of the trail along the canal
 - Paso del Norte Health Foundation is lead grant writer providing design and remaining required match
- Compliments the \$1M Congressional Appropriation for the trail segment from the Zoo to the MCA
- Community support expressed by neighborhood associations and regional government and transportation stakeholders

Reconnecting Communities Application: Budget Summary (\$10 million)

	City Hike/Bike Portion	EPWID#1 Canal Portion
Grant Request	\$3,225,000	\$1,775,000
In-kind EPWID#1		\$2,481,000
In-kind PdNHF/PdNCF	\$2,519,000	
TOTAL BUDGET	\$5,744,000	\$4,256,000

Local Match:

- The required minimum 20 percent local match will be provided by in-kind services from the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 and funds provided by the Paso del Norte Health Foundation + Paso del Norte Community Foundation for \$5 million combined.
- No cash match is required from the City

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