

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

AGENDA DATE: February 7, 2023

CONTACT PERSON(S) NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Omar Martinez, (915) 479-0341
Elizabeth Triggs, (915) 212-0094

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: 2 and 8

STRATEGIC GOAL: No. 1: Create an Environment Conducive to Strong, Sustainable Economic Development

SUBGOAL: 1.5 Stimulate economic growth through transit and bridges integration

SUBJECT:

Discussion and action requesting City Council support for the submission of the staff recommended Five Points Reconstruction and Paso Del Norte & Stanton Bridges Feasibility Study grant applications to the FY23 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) federal discretionary grant program administered by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and intended to help communities build transportation projects that have significant local or regional impact and improve safety and equity.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

On December 15, 2022, the U.S. Department of Transportation opened applications for \$1.5 billion in grant funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program for 2023. The deadline for applications is February 28, 2023 and selections will be announced no later than June 28, 2023.

The City proposes the submission of two applications to the FY23 RAISE program:

Five Points Reconstruction Project

The City is requesting \$8 million in grant funds for the reconstruction of North Piedras to preserve the overall transportation system while providing ADA compliant improvements that will better serve multimodal users of the corridor, including pedestrians, bicyclists and motor vehicle operators. North Piedras will be transformed from a five-lane to a three-lane road, with on-street parking, extended sidewalks and bulb-outs, strategic mid-block crosswalks and pedestrian amenities. This project will convert a primarily vehicular thoroughfare into a multi-modal boulevard that will promote pedestrian safety, economic development, and beautification to catalyze the revitalization of the Five Points neighborhood center for the City of El Paso. Total project cost is \$10 million; a \$2 million match will be provided by the City through funding available for this project.

Paso Del Norte & Stanton Bridges Feasibility Study

Cross-border vehicle traffic using downtown El Paso Ports of Entry (POE) – northbound and southbound traffic at the Stanton Street Bridge and northbound traffic at the Paso Del Norte (PdN) Bridge – predominantly approach or depart the POEs via local surface streets. Local surface streets connect to larger roadways including Paisano Drive/U.S. 62 to the north, and the Cesar E. Chavez Border Highway/TX-Loop 375 to the south. Current redesign and construction projects in the area have affected or will affect vehicle and pedestrian traffic patterns across the streets leading to the POEs; these include the Loop 375 Border Highway West Extension, I-10 Connect project, the SH-20 Alameda Avenue Corridor Study, and the City of El Paso Central Business District Phase IV (CBD IV). Consequently, the City needs a feasibility study to evaluate options for traffic, safety, and capacity improvements at the Paso del Norte and Stanton International Bridges, study area, and roadways. Using the requested \$1.5 million in USDOT funding, the City will contract professional engineering services to develop a transportation infrastructure feasibility study that includes conceptual design, benefit-cost estimation, and other findings and recommendations on potential traffic, safety, and capacity improvements for the Paso del Norte and Stanton International Bridges. Total project cost is \$1,875,000; a \$375,000 match will be provided by the City through the P3 program.

Revised 04/09/2021

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

On February 15, 2022, City Council approved the staff proposed project for the FY22 RAISE discretionary grant program. The City was awarded \$12 million to fund pedestrian improvements to the Ysleta Port of Entry. Council accepted that award on August 30, 2022. Prior to that, City Council approved the staff proposed project for the FY21 RAISE discretionary grant program and the City was subsequently awarded \$900,000 for the design of the future Deck Plaza over the portion of I-10 running through Downtown El Paso.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

- **Five Points Reconstruction Project:** Match of \$2 million from current construction funds
- **Paso Del Norte & Stanton Bridges Feasibility Study:** Match of \$375,000 from International Bridges Restricted Fund (P3 program)

HAVE ALL AFFECTED DEPARTMENTS BEEN NOTIFIED? x YES NO

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT: Economic and International Development

SECONDARY DEPARTMENT: International Bridges Department, Capital Improvements Department

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD:



Elizabeth Triggs, Director, Economic and International Development