

March 24, 2021



Item 8

# Federal Funding, Programmatic, & Policy Priorities

Goal 6. Set the Standard for Sound Governance and Fiscal Management



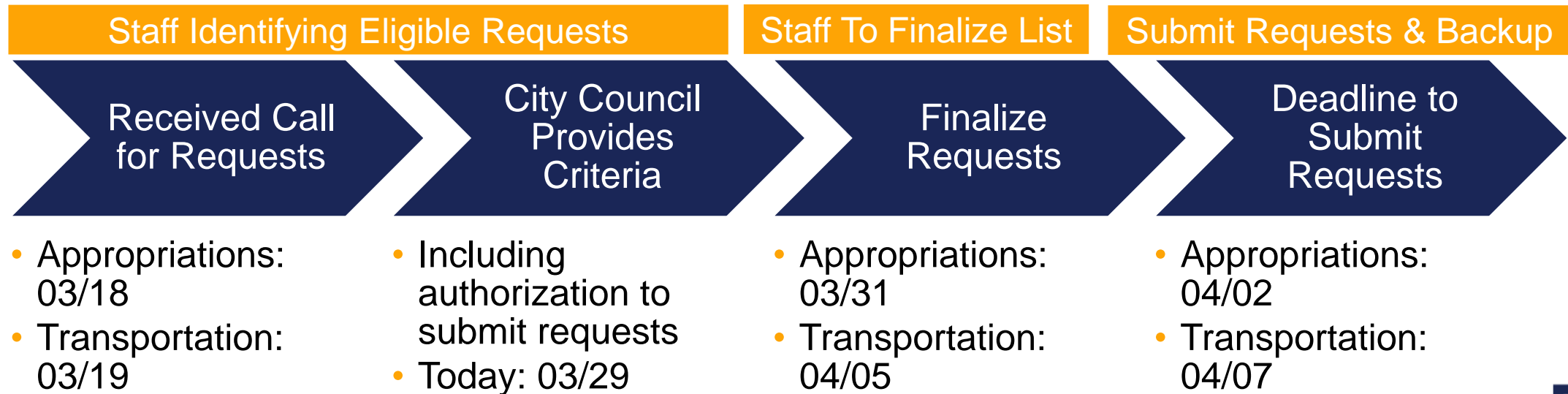
# Presentation Overview

- ❖ Resolution Overview & Purpose
- ❖ Overview of Federal Priorities & Processes
  - Federal Administration's Legislative Priorities
  - Federal Legislative & Appropriations Process
- ❖ City Federal Funding, Programmatic & Policy Priorities
  - Guiding Principles
  - Proposed Priority Areas
- ❖ Next Steps



# Resolution Overview & Purpose

- To authorize the City Manager to identify and submit eligible **community projects and programmatic and policy requests** to the City's federal delegation for consideration during the **federal appropriations and surface transportation advancement legislation processes**, subject to a set of criteria approved by City Council.







# Overview of Federal Priorities & Processes

Merchant McIntyre & Associates



## Merchant McIntyre & Associates

- MM provides comprehensive government relations consulting for the City, both in terms of securing funding through discretionary grants and wins through major legislative initiatives.



## 2021 Biden-Harris Administration + Congressional Agenda

- COVID Vaccination Efforts
  - Education and dissemination
- COVID Relief and Economic Recovery
  - Future additional stimulus
- Infrastructure Investments
  - Comprehensive infrastructure bill
- FY2022 Appropriations Legislation
  - Congress' regular Appropriations process will now include the revival of "earmarks"

# Federal Legislative + Appropriations Processes

- Congress writes legislation annually that federal agencies then execute.
- Federal funding that impacts the City is delivered via formula/block grants *and* discretionary funding via competitive grant applications.
- Competitive grant applications are reviewed and select projects are funded.





# The Return of "Earmarks"

- Members of Congress will now be permitted to request that specific projects be funded through Appropriations and Comprehensive Infrastructure legislation.
- The House of Representatives Appropriations Committee has released guidance and is accepting Community Project Funding requests NOW.
- The Senate's Member-Directed Spending process is unclear at this time, although we expect guidance soon.



# Next Steps for the City

- Approval of resolution authorizing City Manager to identify projects, programmatic, and language requests;
- Confirm priority project(s) for earmarked funding;
- Submit CPF request to Rep. Escobar;
- Continued engagement with Rep. Escobar throughout Appropriations process (April 2nd Deadline)\*

\*April 7<sup>th</sup> for Surface Transportation Projects



# City Federal Funding, Programmatic & Policy Priorities

Guiding Principles & Proposed Priority Areas

# Guiding Principles:

## Alignment with Federal Requirements & Guidelines

- **Project Funding Cap:** Less than \$1.5 million per project;
- **Local Match:** Plan for local match required (recommended 25% match);
- **Community Support:** Demonstrated community support for project;
- **One-Time Funding:** Limited to FY22 funding only;
- **Categories Eligible:** Broad range of projects that can be included
- **Limited Funding:** Each congressperson may only submit 10 projects

# Guiding Principles:

## Alignment with the City's Strategic Plan

- Each funding request and program recommendations is tied to the **City of El Paso's Strategic Plan**.
- This is an **opportunity** for federal funding will support existing efforts while offering the opportunity to realize some community projects earlier than expected.
- Staff will **continue to pursue financial support** from state and federal agencies to offset the cost to El Paso



STRATEGIC  
PLAN 2019

25 BY 2025





# Proposed Priority Areas

- Pandemic Relief
- Housing and Homelessness
- Public Safety
- Digital Inclusion and Expansion
- Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
- Airport
- International Bridges
- Transportation
- Development and Redevelopment
- Arts and Culture
- Economic Development



# Pandemic Relief

Supports projects and legislation that provide:

- Rental, utility or direct financial assistance.
- Childcare for essential workers.
- Expansion of food bank operations and access.
- Investment in local public health infrastructure.
- Small Business Support.

# Housing and Homelessness

- Extend, and provide program flexibility to determine how best to spend funding allocated through the following programs:
  - Community Development Block Grants
  - HOME, HOPWA and Homeless Assistance Grants
  - Rental Assistance Demonstration Program
- Support robust funding of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and preservation and Expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit



## Public Safety

- Increase investment in evidence-based reforms that reduce crime and incarceration.
- Support Legislation and funding for the acquisition of police body cameras and the storage of data obtained by the body cameras.
- Promote a public health approach to reduce violence, including addressing the root causes of crime in a long-term and sustainable way.





## Digital Inclusion and Expansion

- The City of El Paso is committed to ensuring every resident has access to technology and internet access.
- Promote substantial digital inclusion study that identifies population and communities that are severely underserved.
- Promote partnerships with service providers to increase fiber investment along major street arterials.



## Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Support municipalities' efforts to:

- Transition all city owned properties to Net-Zero Energy Buildings.
- Upgrade city-owned vehicles to electric vehicles.
- Upgrade heavy energy usage buildings to incorporate renewable energy technologies.



# Airport

- Support funding opportunities that enhance the sustainability of existing services, grow operations, and counteract the impact of Covid-19.
- Provide airport infrastructure funding to maintain and build the infrastructure needed to serve passengers with safe, secure and efficient facilities.
- Provide resources to implement innovative, safe and efficient aviation systems.





## International Bridges

- Promote the use of technologies and best practices to streamline complex transportation and trade systems.
- Support local municipalities' efforts to master-plan and enhance existing bridge crossings.



# Transportation

- Support major infrastructure projects to provide options and minimize traffic congestion and maximize the efficiency of El Paso's transit and road system.
- Provide long-term, sustainable funding to ensure continued investment in all modes of surface transportation.
- Fund the robust collection of data, and use of analytics, to improve travel operations, provide real-time traveler information, and inform infrastructure investment decisions.
- Continue funding for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) grant programs.



## Development and Redevelopment

- Promote redevelopment of community prioritized sites with the intent to enhance the surrounding community and residents' quality of life.
- Supports the creation of a city-wide urban trail system to connect underserved populations, linking neighborhoods to major employment centers, parks, and open space;



## Arts and Culture

- Promotes and preserves El Paso's culture and programs that support local artists and art organizations;
- Enables the rehabilitation of and provides support for pivotal arts and cultural programs and infrastructure; and
- Promotes eco- and heritage tourism as an economic development driver for the region.



# Economic Development

- Initiate workforce training programs dedicated to promoting skills development in emerging industries that align with existing resilience challenges.
- Facilitate the establishment of an accelerator for small business growth and continuity.
- Engage the private sector in the development of innovative solutions for social and economic problems facing low-income communities.





## Next Steps

- March 29 - City Council adopts the federal funding, programmatic and policy priority recommendations
- March 31 – Finalize priority list and provide to City Council for review
- March 31 through April 1 - City staff will collect letters of support from key stakeholders and collect necessary information to submit requests
- April 2 - Deadline to submit appropriations request, community project funding requests and programmatic and language requests
- April 7 - Deadline to submit surface transportation projects



## Mission

Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community



## Vision

Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe and beautiful neighborhoods and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities powered by a high performing government



## Values

Integrity, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, People



# Questions?

March 29, 2021

