



**STAFF REPORT**  
**5/8/2024**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Jaime Arroyo, Grants Manager

**SUBJECT:** Adopt Resolution No. 2024-16 Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the FY 2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity Under the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Grants Program in the Amount of \$43,692,800

---

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council considers adopting Resolution No. 2024-16 authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the FY 2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity Under the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Grants Program in the Amount of \$43,692,800

**BACKGROUND:**

In November 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), was passed into law. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established two new programs (Mega and Rural) and reauthorized one preexisting program (INFRA). For FY 2025-2026, it is anticipated that this grant opportunity will award \$5.1 billion dollars.

1. Mega: \$1.7 billion in funding for the National Infrastructure Project Assistance grants program, known as the “Mega” grants program.
2. Rural: \$780 million in funding for the Rural Surface Transportation Grant program, known as “Rural”.
3. INFRA: Approximately \$2.7 billion in funding to be made available for the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grants program, known as “INFRA”.

The funding opportunities are awarded on a competitive basis for surface transportation infrastructure projects – including highway and bridge, intercity passenger rail, railway-highway grade crossing or separation, wildlife crossing, public transportation, marine highway, and freight projects, or groups of such projects – with the following being the main objectives:

1. Invest in surface transportation infrastructure projects of national or regional significance, or improve/expand infrastructure in rural areas; and
2. Support projects that are consistent with the Department's strategic goals: improve safety, economic strength and global competitiveness, equity, and climate and sustainability.

### **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

The City of Coachella is submitting an application for Mega funding in the amount of \$43,692,800 for the SR-86 Avenue 50 New Interchange Project. Proposed improvements include the realignment and widening of Avenue 50 from the existing two-lane roadway to a six-lane major arterial, and the realignment of Tyler Street on both the east and west sides of SR-86.

The project will improve safety by implementing an overcrossing structure eliminating potential conflicts between mainline and crossing traffic at the existing at-grade crossing. The existing accident rates are currently higher than statewide average. The new interchange will also add and encourage more active transportation, allowing traffic to keep flowing and reducing both greenhouse gases and idling.

Consistent with the California State Transportation Agency's (CalSTA) Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI), the project will include sidewalks and portion of CV Link access ramps promoting walking, biking, and LSEV, resulting in reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).

The project is located within the Qualified Opportunity Zone, the SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities and AB 1550 Low-income Communities. The project will act as a catalyst to stimulate economic development by providing better employment and housing opportunities. It will also create environmental sustainability and resiliency benefits for the residents to work locally, resulting in fewer vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in accordance with CAPTI guiding principles.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Submission of this grant application has no fiscal impact on the City of Coachella.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-16 Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the FY 2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity Under the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Grants Program in the Amount of \$43,692,800
2. Not Adopt Resolution No. 2024-16 Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the FY 2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity Under the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Grants Program in the Amount of \$43,692,800

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution No. 2024-16