



STAFF REPORT
3/24/2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Andrew Simmons, P.E., City Engineer

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2021-25, to Authorize Staff to Submit Capital Improvement Project ST-069 for Community Project Funding, Fiscal Year 2022 for Federal Earmark Funding

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve Resolution No. 2021-25 to authorize staff to submit the “Avenue 50 Bridge over Whitewater Storm Channel” (Project ST-069) to our District 36 Federal Congressional Representative for consideration in community project funding fiscal year 2022 federal ear mark dollars.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff has reviewed the “Community Project Funding Fiscal Year 2022 Resource Guide” provided by the offices of Raul Ruiz, M.D., Member of the U.S. House of Representatives serving California’s 36th district, and the City’s 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and identified a project that meets the program requirements. Capital Improvement Project ST-069 “Avenue 50 Bridge over Whitewater Storm Channel” is shovel ready and eligible for federal earmark funding based on the guidance provided. We recommend that the City seek Transportation / HUD subcommittee earmark federal funding for in the maximum allowed amount of One Million (\$1,000,000), in order to assist the City with its matching funds requirements.

BACKGROUND:

In Mid-March of 2021, Congressman Raul Ruiz office reached out to our City Mayor to solicit a list of projects that could be considered for federal earmark spending for a maximum dollar amount of \$1 million per project. This list of projects is due to the congressional offices by no later than April 14, 2021. At the request of Coachella Mayor Steven Hernandez, staff has reviewed the existing capital improvement projects eligible for federal Community Project Funding for City Council consideration and approval. Upon approval, staff will submit the project and all required backup information to our congressional representative offices for federal funding considerations.

The eligibility checklist provided for the Community Project Funding included:

- Letters of support from elected community leaders
 - Press articles highlighting the need for the specific project
 - Resolutions passed by local/county/state governments
 - Projects listed on community development plans, state intended use plans, and other publicly available planning documents
 - Support from local newspaper editorial boards, etc.
- Additional requirements are listed below:
- A financial disclosure statement from Rep. Ruiz certifying that neither his immediate family nor he have any financial interest in the proposed project.
 - No funds can be used by for-profit recipients.
 - Matching funding must be available for each project from the state/local government (matching funding does NOT have to be in-hand, but officials must have a plan to fund in order to meet this requirement).
 - Each project is funded only for FY 2022.

Project ST-069 “Avenue 50 Bridge over Whitewater Storm Channel” can meet all of the criteria listed above.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

ST-069: Avenue 50 Bridge over Whitewater Strom Chanel:

The Avenue 50 Bridge over Whitewater Strom Chanel project has completed all preliminary engineering and environmental clearances and has received both grant and local funding. Based on the current approved FTIP funding allocation, the current estimated cost to complete the bridge is \$51,464,000. The Federal Highway Bridge Projects (HBP) funding will cover \$45,651,000, CVAG will cover 75% of the local share at a total of \$4,359,750 and the City is obligated to cover 25% of the remaining local share at a total cost of \$1,453,250.

It is recommended that the City seek one million dollars (\$1,000,000), in federal earmark spending to help cover a portion of the \$1,453,250 match that is obligated to the City.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Submit Capital Improvement projects ST-069 to our federal congressional representative for consideration in earmark funding to help reduce the financial obligation to the City for local matching funds.
2. Do not submit any projects to our federal congressional congressman.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact for submitting projects for consideration in federal earmark funding. There is a chance of reducing the City’s General Fund obligations towards the project by up to 1 million dollars if the project is selected and approved in the 2022 Federal Fiscal year transportation budget.

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE(S):

Authorize staff to work with our federal congressional representative, Raul Ruiz, to provide a list of “shovel ready” projects that are eligible for federal earmark spending.

Attachments:
Resolution 2021-25