



FRUITA
COLORADO

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

TO: Fruita City Council and Mayor

FROM: Planning & Development Department

DATE: August 15, 2023

AGENDA TEXT: A request to authorize the City Manager to submit a Letter of Intent form to the Department of Local Affairs for the Stronger Communities Infrastructure Grant Program.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this Coversheet is to request approval to authorize the City Manager to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) for the Stronger Communities Infrastructure Grant Program.

House Bill 22-1304 created the Strong Communities Program to support local governments in planning for sustainable growth and development patterns and affordable housing into the future. The Strong Communities Infrastructure Grant Program provides local governments with grants to fund infrastructure projects that increase the supply of affordable housing and that are within or adjacent to a downtown area, a core business district, or a transit-oriented development (some flexibility allowed for rural counties). The program background states, "Local governments are encouraged to pick one or two shovel-ready projects that can spend all the funds by October 31, 2026. The most competitive projects will provide community benefits (e.g., include a childcare center), provide accessibility features, address equity needs in their community, and the community will have one or more sustainable development policies in place."

Project Scope:

We have worked closely with Together, We Grow Development (TWGD) to create a Planned Unit Development (PUD) for an infill site at 614 Raptor Road. This site was chosen due to its proximity to Downtown Fruita as well as the accessibility to I-70. The property is adjacent to a hotel, truck dealerships, the Dinosaur Journey Museum, camping, outdoor recreation, and the James M. Robb Colorado State Park. All these locations provide work close to the housing so that residents can easily get around and participate within the community. Furthermore, there will be payment in lieu of performance to assist in providing additional childcare facilities in the area. We are already working with a childcare provider that will be 0.25 miles from the property. Roots of Wonder Early Learning Center is building a brand new, nature-based childcare facility. This early learning center will be opening 74 new childcare spots for children ages 6 weeks to 6 years old; as well as provide up to 20 new local jobs.

FISCAL IMPACT

This request is simply to authorize the City Manager to submit a LOI form so that Staff may begin the grant application process moving forward. As part of the grant application process, a LOI is required to be submitted first. There are no fiscal impacts currently. Any financial commitment will be subject to future appropriations.

APPLICABILITY TO CITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The grant program aligns well with the City's Comprehensive Plan and City Councils goals to address affordable housing needs. The city continues to find resources that help support the development of affordable housing to retain the local workforce as well. The Comprehensive Plan puts an emphasis on workforce housing, diversity of housing types, and more importantly affordable housing. In conjunction with housing, there has been for many years a stronger need for childcare services to help support the local workforce. The Comprehensive Plan also supports investments into the health of the local community that make a positive impact through programming initiatives, partnerships, and infrastructure.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COUNCIL

1. Approve authorization for the City Manager to submit a Letter of Intent form to the Department of Local Affairs for the Stronger Communities Infrastructure Grant Program.
2. Advise Staff to amend the request and come back with additional information.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTENT FORM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS FOR THE STRONGER COMMUNITIES' INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM