

STAFF REPORT REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA DATE: June 18, 2024

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

TITLE:

DOE Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE) Grant Application

SUMMARY:

The City, in partnership with the Lake Worth Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, have submitted an application in response to DOE-FOA-3229 Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE). The application requests \$1,523, 317 in funding from the Department of Energy under the C-SITE program to expand the zero-emission micro-transit shuttle service that is currently a one-year pilot program into a three-year program in order to provide a convenient, efficient mobility option for residents, visitors and workers.

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:

The Department of Energy has announced DOE-FOA-3229 for the Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE) program that provides grant resources to disadvantaged communities. Many kinds of projects are eligible, including supporting zero-emission micro transit services proven to enhance mobility in communities with low-income and low vehicle ownership.

The City of Lake Worth Beach (the "City") and the Lake Worth Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (the "CRA") have partnered in applying to the Department of Energy for \$1,523,317 in grant funding under the C-SITE program. This funding will be used to expand the current pilot program that is operating in the city by supporting the implementation and management of an expanded micro transit "on Demand" service utilizing additional all electric vehicles to cover additional communities. The expanded zero-emission micro transit service will include smart stops as determined by ongoing analysis. The expanded micro transit shuttle program will serve visitors, residents and workers by providing a convenient, efficient mobility option to circulate downtown Lake Worth Beach, the municipal beach and disadvantage communities west of Federal Highway over the next three years.

The benefits and outcomes of the proposed micro-transit service represent a pivotal step towards addressing community disparities in Lake Worth Beach. By providing an affordable, efficient, and eco-friendly transportation solution, we aim to bridge the gap in mobility access. Our comprehensive equity assessment ensures that the project will benefit all residents proportionally and mitigate transportation-related disparities. Most importantly, the project adopts evidence-based climate resilience measures to counteract the disproportionate impacts of climate change and pollution on disadvantaged communities.

The City and the CRA intend to utilize the cash value of the zero emission zero emission micro transit shuttle pilot program in the amount of \$237,380 as the requisite match for the proposed program.

The application was submitted on May 29, 2024, to in order to meet the submission deadline of May 31, 2024.

MOTION:

Move to approve/disapprove the submission of the City's and CRA's application for \$1,523,317 in grant funding under the Department of Energy C-SITE funding opportunity to expand the zero-emission micro transit shuttle service.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Fiscal Impact Analysis – N/A