

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

DATE: June 3, 2025

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Melinda Moritz, Public Works Director

THROUGH: Crystal Caldera, Ph.D., City Manager

SUBJECT: Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Action to Consider Approval of Two Resolutions Supporting Grant Applications for a Hike & Bike Trail Connectivity Plan and the Hike & Bike Trail Segment 3 from the Texas Department of Transportation

SPONSOR(S): None

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

The purpose of this item is to consider approval of two Resolutions supporting an application for funding a Trail Connectivity Plan to the Texas Department of Transportation.

With the existing short walking trails (Huebner-Onion Natural Area Park, Linkwood-Pavona, Stirrup Lane, Hetherington), the construction of the Hike & Bike Trail Segments 1 and engineering of Segment 2, and the donation of trails and parklands from new residential developments (Senna, Trilogy, Seneca Trails), it has become evident that the city needs a city-wide connectivity plan to eventually connect all trails, walking paths, and sidewalks.

The Leon Valley Greenway Hike & Bike Trail Segment 1 courses from Shadow Mist St. to Bandera Rd. Segment 2 will run from Bandera Road to Evers Road. To connect with the City of San Antonio's trail at Balky Drive, the city has applied for a grant to fund the construction of the final leg of the trail from Evers Road to Balky Drive through Huebner Creek.

The Texas Department of Transportation issued a call for projects in January 2025 for communities to apply for funding assistance through the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) Program. This program supports the development of planning documents and projects to help communities of all sizes develop non-motorized transportation networks.

In Step 1 of the application process, 311 eligible preliminary applications were submitted by 247 entities, requesting over \$1.1 billion in funding. TxDOT reviewed applications for

eligibility and held meetings with project sponsors to discuss viable projects. From this process, they identified up to \$250 million in federal funding for projects. The city's Hike & Bike Trail Segment 3 and Connectivity Plan projects advanced to Step 2.

The second step includes a detailed application, a Resolution from the agency, and supporting documentation. The Resolution asserts the city's commitment to funding the project as described in the 2025 TA Detailed Application, including planning activities, departmental oversight costs, and required local matches (if any). It also confirms the city's readiness to enter into an agreement with TxDOT upon selection of the projects for funding. The TA funds may also be used for development of preliminary engineering (plans, specifications, and estimates and environmental documentation) and construction of pedestrian and/or bicycle infrastructure

Fiscal Impact

The grant provides \$100,000 for a connectivity plan. TA funds require a local match, which can be fulfilled with cash or Transportation Development Credits (TDCs), if eligible. As the city qualifies for these credits, there is no direct cost for the plan. The city would only bear non-reimbursable costs and 100% of overruns, although no overruns are anticipated.

For construction projects, TxDOT will pay 80% of the construction costs. The city is responsible for all engineering costs and 20% of the construction costs. The Hike & Bike Trail Segment 3 estimated funding/costs are as follows:

Engineering	\$ 289,151
Construction	<u>\$1,576,253</u>
Total	\$1,865,404
TxDOT funds	\$1,261,003
City Funds	\$ 604,401 (\$289,151 + \$315,250)

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the Resolutions.

APPROVED: _____ DISAPPROVED: _____

APPROVED WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS:

ATTEST:

SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC
City Secretary