



HIDALGO COUNTY PRECINCT 2



Eduardo “Eddie” Cantu
COUNTY COMMISSIONER

November 21, 2023

Honorable Norie Gonzalez Garza - Mayor
Attn: Mr. JP Terrazas, P.E., CPM – Assistant City Manager
City of Mission
1201 E. 8th St.
Mission, Texas 78572

RE: Recreational Trails Connectivity Project – Mission Participation

Mayor Garza,

As you know, for the last 8 years, I have been honored to represent the good people of Hidalgo County as their County Commissioner for Precinct No. 2. As I approach the end of my 9th year in office, I am excited to continue my commitment to transportation and quality of life projects that will improve our constituent’s wellbeing, reduce stress, encourage a more active lifestyle and potentially reduce carbon emissions as a transportation alternative project. My team and I have prioritized what we are calling our “Recreational Trails Connectivity Project” which focuses on safely connecting the existing Hike and Bike Trail facilities of Mission, McAllen, and Hidalgo to our Regional Linear Park facility, City of Edinburg Hike & Bike trails, and ultimately to the UTRGV. My vision would be for someone to be able to jump on a bike at the Mission Hike and Bike facility, and safely ride to McAllen, Hidalgo, Pharr, San Juan, and Edinburg (UTRGV). As you can see on Exhibit A, this truly is a “Regional” project in that it connects constituents and cities from all over Hidalgo County.

As with all ambitious projects of this kind, identifying funding is key to making this project a reality. I have budgeted a significant amount of my ARPA allocation to getting this project going. I have released my engineering consultant to begin surveying and developing plans to better firm up our construction cost estimate for this 15.7 mile long facility. The Total Project Cost is currently estimated at \$11.1M for Construction, Engineering, Survey, Utilities, Geotechnical, ROW, etc. As identified on Exhibit A, 23% of the project length is located within the City Limits of Mission. Linearly, that would put the total Project Cost associated with the segments within Mission at \$2.6M (approx.). As I am sure you are aware, my engineering consultant worked

closely with Mr. Brad Bentsen, and Mr. Michael Elizalde on your staff and were successful in securing a \$500K grant from the Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation (VBLF) to be applied to the construction costs of the segment within the city limits of Mission. I applaud your staff's efforts in securing this money for this monumental project because as you well know, it requires partnerships like these to find ways to fund these type of projects. **In the continued spirit of partnership, I am requesting that the City of Mission match the VBLF grant amount in the amount of \$500K bringing the total contribution towards this \$11.1M project by the City of Mission to \$1M (\$500K from VBLF and \$500K from City of Mission).**

I am happy to announce that I already have a huge commitment from the City of McAllen to assist in the construction costs of this truly regional project. Additionally, I currently have a request into my colleague, Commissioner Everardo "Ever" Villarreal's, office as well.

I know that a contribution of this size is a sacrifice, and that the City will have to work within its financially constrained budget to be able to commit. I would however like to point out that due to the partnership I have put together, this would be leveraging the cities monies at a rate of approximately \$0.05 (5 cents) on the dollar!

I look forward to hearing back from you on the City of Mission's interest in partnering with us for this monumental project, and please feel free to contact me directly with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Hon. Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Hidalgo County Commissioner Pct. #2

