

MEMO

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Maria D'Andrea, Director of Public Works
Subject: INFRA Grant Application Funding Support – US 85 & 120th Avenue Interchange
Date: September 18, 2017

The U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) has announced the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) discretionary grant program which will make approximately \$1.5 billion in federal funding assistance available for highway and freight projects of national or regional significance. INFRA grants will support the Administration's commitment to fixing the nation's crumbling infrastructure by creating opportunities for all levels of government and the private sector to fund infrastructure, using innovative approaches to improve the necessary processes for building significant projects, and increasing accountability for the projects that are built.

To maximize the value of the funds, the Department is focusing the competition on transportation infrastructure projects that support four key objectives:

- Supporting economic vitality at the national and regional level;
- Leveraging Federal funding to attract other, non-Federal sources of infrastructure investment, as well as accounting for the life-cycle costs of the project;
- Using innovative approaches to improve safety and expedite project delivery;
- Holding grant recipients accountable for their performance and achieving specific, measurable outcomes identified by grant applicants

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has asked Commerce City, Adams County, as well as the cities of Brighton and Thornton to consider authorizing funding to support a grant application for a project that would construct an interchange at the intersection of US 85 with 120th Avenue as well as improvements in Weld County along US 85. The city's contribution would only be used for the interchange at 120th Avenue. Weld County has verbally committed approximately \$17M.



MEMO CONTINUED

CDOT wants to pursue projects that enjoy strong local support as the INFRA program aims to increase the total investment by state, local, and private partners. Total project costs for grant applications need to exceed \$100M.

Grant applications are due November 2, 2017 so time is of the essence in assessing local financial support in order to prepare the application. CDOT staff has asked that agencies provide verbal commitments by September 18 of their proposed level of funding, in order to determine if a grant application is viable. The CDOT Transportation Commission will consider using Senate Bill 267 funds to make up the "gap" in any funding not provided by locals at their September 21 meeting with the goal of providing approximately \$70-80M in local & state funding towards the grant application. i.e. \$20-\$30M in grant funding. CDOT would prepare the grant application at no cost to the cities or counties.

The cost of the 120th Avenue/US 85 interchange is estimated to be approximately \$56M to complete design, acquire rights-of-way and construct. Approximate costs in Weld County would include \$20M for crossing improvements & closures as well as \$50M to construct an interchange in Peckham.

Three other InfraGrant applications within Colorado are also being considered:

- I-25 South, Castle Rock to Monument
- I-70 westbound Peak Period Shoulder Lane including an interchange at Empire
- I-25 North-Segment 5 & Segment 6 (through Longmont)

Financial Impact

The proposed 5-year Capital Improvement Program, which has not yet been approved by the City Council, currently includes \$7.0M in funding in 2022 to be allocated towards the interchange construction. CDOT has indicated that they will work with local agencies on options for funding commitments. The grant requires obligation of funds by 2020. Given that the environmental analysis & design has begun, CDOT indicated that construction could begin as soon as spring of 2019 if a design-build option was pursued.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approving the attached resolution, Resolution No. 2017-100.

