

AGENDA ITEM 20

Discuss and take appropriate action on a transportation enhancement grant application.

Moved: **Commissioner Heiligenstein**

Seconded: **Judge Doerfler**

Motion: To approve submission of transportation enhancement grant application, with segments 1 and 2 listed as priority projects.

Vote: **5 - 0**

< Attachment >

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To: Commissioners' Court

Date: March 19, 2001

Subject: Enhancement Funding

TxDOT announced a call for project nominations to the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program. This program is different than other transportation programs because of its orientation toward non-traditional transportation projects.

Below is a summary of the project eligibility for enhancement funds. Projects must be submitted to CAMPO by May 21, 2001 for CAMPO PAC endorsement on June 11th. Projects are then forwarded to the TxDOT District office for evaluation and ranking (in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)). The Texas Transportation Commission (TxTC) makes the final decision for funding approval. There is \$150 million available statewide for the current call for enhancement projects and proposed projects would compete statewide. The TxTC will be selecting projects during the winter of 2001.

The proposed project must have a direct relationship to the surface transportation system by **function** (facilities originally designed as part of the system or bicycle/pedestrian facilities that serve the system) or **impact** (activities aesthetically improving a roadway median through a landscape activity or creating wetlands by filtering pollution from highway water runoff). Eligible categories include:

1. Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles
2. Provision of safety and education activities for pedestrians and bicycles
3. Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites
4. Scenic or historic highway program (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities)
5. Landscaping and other scenic beautification
6. Historic preservation
7. Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals)
8. Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails)
9. Control and removal of outdoor advertising
10. Archaeological planning and research
11. Environmental mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity
12. Establishment of transportation museums.

The funds provided by this program are on a cost reimbursement basis. Projects undertaken with enhancement funds are eligible for reimbursement of up to 80 percent of allowable costs, which may include plans, specifications, estimates, environmental

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