

**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 >

***Nancy Ledbetter***  
Special Projects Coordinator

**Williamson County**  
**Advanced Planning**

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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05/01/2001

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mitigation, acquisition of real property, construction, construction management, administrative expenses, and interpretation or other activities to enhance the appreciation of natural or cultural resources. The nominating entity is responsible for the remaining cost share. All cost overruns must be paid for by the nominating entity. Costs incurred before TxDOT's authorization to proceed are not reimbursable.

### **Recommendation**

Things that come immediately to mind are perhaps something to do with the wildflower center and "velloway" type facility being planned for the County. Also, perhaps we could leverage some of the \$10 million set aside for environmental mitigation for the road bond projects. I need to know more about the bond program before I can make more recommendations but I can talk to Weaver about this possibility tomorrow at Commissioners' Court. Although the program could pay for up to 80% of eligible expenses, there is fierce competition and proposals offering local funds closer to 50% than 80% might stand a better chance of obtaining funds. Please call me at 248-3238 if you have any questions or suggestions of possible projects you would like for me to research.

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**AGENDA ITEM 21**

Consider approving interlocal agreement with City of Georgetown regarding construction and maintenance of west Inner Loop.

Moved: **Commissioner Hays**

Seconded: **Commissioner Limmer**

Motion: To approve interlocal agreement with City of Georgetown regarding construction and maintenance of west Inner Loop.

Vote: **5 - 0**

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