

MOTION

TRANSPORTATION

11-0329-511
CD 14

On March 4, 2014, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued a Notice of Funding Availability to award \$600 million in Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants in 2014. TIGER funds will be awarded on a competitive basis, with priority given to projects that are expected to quickly create and preserve jobs and stimulate rapid increases in economic activity, particularly in economically distressed areas. Unlike the past few rounds of TIGER funding, which were limited to capital projects, the current TIGER program includes up to \$35 million for planning grants with a maximum single grant amount of \$3 million. Applications are due beginning April 2, 2014 and must be submitted by April 28, 2014.

The Downtown L.A. Streetcar project is a strong candidate for a TIGER planning grant because it will create workforce opportunities for a wide range of workers, and catalyze economic development and tourism in an economically distressed area while connecting downtown neighborhoods, encouraging multi-modal mobility, increasing pedestrian and bicycle activity and walkability.

L.A. Streetcar Inc. (LASI) and the City have forged a public-private partnership to support the effort to plan, design and build this project, which is being led by the L.A. Department of Transportation (LADOT) and has widespread support. The project has been accepted into the FTA Small Starts program, and is expecting its draft environmental documents to be released this summer. Upcoming planning activities for the Streetcar project include but are not limited to preliminary engineering, final engineering and design.

The City, its constituents and its partners have already demonstrated significant commitment to the Downtown L.A. Streetcar. In late 2012, downtown residents voted overwhelming in support of a \$62.5 million Community Facilities District special tax to help fund construction costs for streetcar, and the L.A. City Council has approved \$1 million to assist with environmental and planning in addition to \$10 million allocate for these purposes by the former Community Redevelopment Agency. City Council has also allocated \$294 million to fund streetcar operations for 30 years, ensuring financial stability for the streetcar once it is built.

The available, already allocated funding is sufficient to provide the 20% match required of grant applicants, making the pursuit of this grant a cost neutral endeavor for the City.

I THEREFORE MOVE that LADOT be authorized and instructed to work with Council District 14 and LASI to prepare a 2014 TIGER planning grant application for up to \$3 million for the Downtown L.A. Streetcar project to be submitted by LADOT before the deadline.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, City Administrative Office and other City departments and agencies be authorized and instructed to assist with this grant application effort as necessary.

PRESENTED BY


JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY



APR 02 2014

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