

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE October 22, 2009

TO Members of the Transportation and Environment Committee:  
Linda Koop (Chair), Sheffie Kadane (Vice Chair), Jerry R. Allen, Tennell Atkins,  
Carolyn R. Davis, Angela Hunt, Delia Jasso, Pauline Medrano, Ron Natinsky,  
Vonciel Jones Hill

SUBJECT TxDOT Transportation Enhancement Call for Projects Briefing Memo

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) officially opened a Transportation Enhancements (TE) Program Call for Projects on Friday, October 9, 2009, and will close the Call on Friday, December 11, 2009. There is \$67.5 million available statewide in this program.

The TE Program emphasizes the development of non-traditional transportation projects. Transportation enhancements are federally funded through the Surface Transportation Program (STP) which is administered by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). Projects will be reviewed by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC); they will send TxDOT a letter of support for all project applications that meet the TE program requirements.

This program provides 80% reimbursement for construction costs only, with the local 20% share provided as cash -- not property or in-kind services. The nominating entity is responsible for anything above the authorized federal funds and 100% of all cost overruns must be paid for by the nominating entity. Costs incurred before TxDOT's authorization to proceed are not reimbursable. Ineligible expenses include the cost of preparing a project nomination, routine operations, and maintenance of a project.

The TE Program offers funding opportunities to help expand transportation choices and enhance the transportation experience through non-traditional activities related to the surface transportation system. Project types preferred by the RTC include:

- bicycle and pedestrian projects, including landscaping and education;
- restoration/operation of historic trolley or interurban rail lines and related structures, including landscaping;
- restoration and operation of historic transit stations as new transit stations, including landscaping;
- acquisition of historic railroad rights of way for future rail and/or bicycle trails; and,
- landscaping transportation facilities.

Applications must be submitted to the TxDOT Dallas District Office by 5:00 p.m. on December 11, 2009. TxDOT is looking for projects that are designed and ready to be built. In order to be selected, a project needs to satisfy the following TxDOT readiness criteria:

- a set of plans is prepared and ready for letting; nominating entity is willing to let the project;
- federal funds requested are for construction associated cost only;
- all of the local match is available and in cash;
- project property is owned by the nominator and supporting documentation is provided; and,
- coordination with the appropriate agencies has been established to provide environmental clearance.

Staff is reviewing current City projects that meet the requirements of the TE Program and TxDOT's stated goals for quick project implementation. The Transportation and Environment Committee will be briefed at its November 23, 2009 meeting on the projects recommended for submission.

Please contact me if you need additional information.



Jill A. Jordan, P.E.  
Assistant City Manager

- c: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager  
Thomas P. Perkins Jr., City Attorney  
Deborah Watkins, City Secretary  
Craig Kinton, City Auditor  
Judge C. Victor Lander, Administrative Judge  
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager  
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager  
Forest Turner, Assistant City Manager  
David K. Cook, Chief Financial Officer  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Director, Office of Financial Services  
Edward Scott, City Controller  
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager  
Rick Galceran, P.E., Director, Public Works and Transportation  
Theresa O'Donnell, Director, Sustainable Development and Construction Department