

**J. 2019 INFRA GRANT PROGRAM: LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT REQUEST: LASKIN ROAD PHASE I-B**

On December 21, 2018, the U.S. Department of Transportation published a Notice of Funding Opportunity to apply for \$950 million in discretionary grant funding through the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program.

Projects for INFRA will be evaluated based on four key objectives:

- Supporting economic vitality at the national and regional level
- Leveraging Federal funding to attract non-Federal sources of infrastructure investment
- Deploying innovative technology, encouraging innovative approaches to project delivery, and incentivizing the use of innovative financing
- Holding grant recipients accountable for their performance

The City of Virginia Beach intends to file an INFRA grant program application for the Laskin Road Phase I-B project. The total cost for the Laskin Road Phase I-B project is approximately \$32.2 million. Roughly \$2.2 million of local funds have been expended on the project for preliminary engineering leaving a \$30 million balance to complete. The City's INFRA Grant application will request 60% of the \$30 million balance to complete (\$18 million) with the City funding the remaining 40% (\$12 million).

The deadline to submit an application for the FY 2019 INFRA discretionary grants program is March 4, 2019 by 8:00 p.m. EST.

The City of Virginia Beach has requested an HRTPO Letter of Endorsement to accompany its INFRA grant application submittal.

The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) has recommended approval of the endorsement letter.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve a Letter of Endorsement for the proposed INFRA project submittal for the Virginia Beach.