

N. BUILD DISCRETIONARY GRANTS PROGRAM – LETTERS OF SUPPORT

On April 25, 2018, the U.S. Department of Transportation published a Notice of Funding Opportunity to apply for \$1.5 billion in discretionary grant funding through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

BUILD Transportation grants replace the previous Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. BUILD Transportation grants are for investments in surface transportation infrastructure and are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. BUILD funding can support roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation.

Projects for BUILD will be evaluated based on merit criteria that include safety, economic competitiveness, quality of life, environmental protection, state of good repair, innovation, partnership, and additional non-Federal revenue for future transportation infrastructure investments.

For this round of BUILD Transportation grants, the maximum grant award per project is \$25 million, and no more than \$150 million can be awarded to a single State, as specified in the FY 2018 Appropriations Act. At least 30 percent of funds must be awarded to projects located in rural areas.

The deadline to submit an application for the FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program is July 19, 2018.

The City of Virginia Beach has requested HRTPO Letters of Support to accompany its BUILD application submittals.

Attachment 19-N

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the Letters of Support for the proposed BUILD project submittals for Virginia Beach.



City of Virginia Beach

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PUBLIC WORKS ENGINEERING
PHONE (757)385-4131
FAX (757)385-5668

MUNICIPAL CENTER
BUILDING 2, ROOM 300
2405 COURTHOUSE DRIVE
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23456

June 22, 2018

Robert A. Crum, Jr., Executive Director
Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO)
The Regional Building
723 Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320

**SUBJECT: 2018 BUILD Grant Program
Sandbridge Road - Nimmo Parkway Phase VII-A & Laskin Road Phase I-B**

Dear Mr. Crum:

The City of Virginia Beach intends to file two (2) applications with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grant program for the following projects: Sandbridge Road - Nimmo Parkway Phase VII-A and Laskin Road Phase I-B. We respectfully request a letter of endorsement for the aforementioned projects to be included in the grant funding applications.

The Sandbridge Road - Nimmo Parkway Phase VII-A project includes construction of a two-lane road along Sandbridge Road from Sandpiper Road extending west 1.1 miles. The project removes the dangerous "S-Curves" and raises the roadway elevation roughly 4-feet to remove the road from the flood plain. The elevated road will be passable during the 100-year flood and also accounts for sea level rise. The project will also provide dedicated on-road bike lanes and a 10-foot wide shared use path on the south side of the roadway. This project represents the first phase of the Nimmo Parkway Phase VII corridor improvements, which has limits from Sandpiper Road to Atwoodtown Road.

The Sandbridge Road – Nimmo Parkway Phase VII-A project includes key safety and resilience improvements to fortify the only public roadway connection - and essential evacuation route - to and from the coastal Sandbridge community. The project will address recurrent flooding thereby eliminating the need to detour traffic through the nearby Dam Neck Naval Base when flooding forces public road closures thereby re-establishing security on the base. The project will also provide geometric improvements to the roadway eliminating several sharp, non-standard curves that are the site of frequent accidents, including one (1) recent fatality.

The total estimated cost for the Sandbridge Road - Nimmo Parkway Phase VII-A project is approximately \$21.5M. The project is located in a non-urbanized section of Virginia Beach (per

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Robert A. Crum, Jr., Executive Director
HRTPO Endorsement Request - 2018 BUILD Grant Program
June 22, 2018

the 2010 Census) and is therefore classified as rural and eligible to receive 100% funding through the BUILD program. The City's BUILD Grant application will request \$18M (~85%) of the total project cost and leverage \$1M in State Revenue Sharing funding and \$2.5M in local City funding.

The Laskin Road Phase I-B project includes the construction of roadway improvements along the existing alignment of Laskin Road from Red Robin Road to Oriole Drive, a distance of approximately 0.6 miles, as well as minor improvements at Birdneck Road. This project will connect to the Laskin Road Bridge project (anticipated construction start in early 2019) to the west and serves as the third and final phase of the overall Laskin Road Phase I parent project. Improvements to Laskin Road include the removal of the existing service/feeder roads, and the addition of a ten-foot sidewalk along the north side of the corridor.

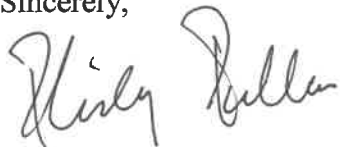
Laskin Road is a part of the National Highway System, meaning it was federally identified as a road important to the nation's economy, defense, and mobility. The corridor serves as a connector from the Hilltop Strategic Growth Area to the Resort Strategic Growth Area; therefore, improvements to the corridor would enhance economic vitality in the region. Laskin Road is also in close proximity to Oceana Naval Air Station, can serve as a link between Oceana and Fort Story, and is the link between Pacific Avenue and Oceana Blvd – roads deemed necessary for emergency mobilization and movement of commodities to support U.S. military operations. In addition to the military mobility purpose this road serves, this connection will also provide a more viable alternative route to and from the Resort Area with improvements that support larger volumes of traffic. The proposed pedestrian accommodations, as well as the removal of feeder roads, will provide safety benefits.

The total estimated cost for the Laskin Road Phase I-B project is approximately \$28M. The City's BUILD Grant application will request 80% of the total project cost (\$22.4M) with the City funding the remaining 20% (\$5.6M).

Your favorable response to this request will be greatly appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 757-385-4131, or email me at ppullen@vbgov.com if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Phillip D. Pullen, P.E.
Acting City Engineer

PDP/kes

Cc: John Mihaly, HRTPO Senior Transportation Planner
Katie Shannon, P.E. Public Works/Engineering