

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE December 28, 2022

TO Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

SUBJECT **Year-End Federal Legislative Update**

As the 117th Congress comes to a close, lawmakers in Washington D.C. worked quickly to pass final bills and solidify plans for 2023. Following is an update on the City's federal legislative program in the final omnibus appropriations bill passed this last week and signed by President Biden.

- The bi-partisan FY23 Omnibus funding bill passed through the House and Senate and was signed by President Biden, thereby finalizing funding for FY23 Community Projects. North Texas has secured approximately \$34 million worth of funding for local and regional projects focused on transportation, education, renewable energy, and public safety. A May 27, 2022 memo to City Council regarding the City's Community Funding requests is attached. A summary of City of Dallas requests (and links to all requests) submitted by the Dallas House delegation and successfully included in the Omnibus bill follows.

[Representative Colin Allred](#)

- \$750,000 for Dallas Digital Divide – Traffic Signals & Streetlights
- \$500,000 for Dallas College – Teaching Residency Apprenticeship Program
- \$2,820,800 for Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) – Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System Upgrade Project (SCADA)
- \$2,500,000 for Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) – Intermodal Transit Hub at UTD Station for DART Silver Line
- \$7,750,000 for Southern Gateway Public Green Foundation – Southern Gateway Park

[Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson](#)

- \$750,000 for Love Field Alternate Entry
- \$2m for Greater Downtown Dallas Master Plan Planning
- \$2m for Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Park Solar Panels
- \$750,000 for City of Dallas Arborist Office Urban Forestry Project

[Representative Marc Veasey](#)

- \$1m for Hensley Field Shoreline Modification

[Representative Beth Van Duyne](#)

- \$935,000 for Dallas Police Department Record Management System (in partnership with Eddie Bernice Johnson)

- The FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) passed through the House and Senate and was signed by President Biden. Included in the final bill is the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, which includes an authorization for White Rock Lake under the Army Corps of Engineers' Lakes Program. An authorization from Congress allows for money to be spent on a given item, while an appropriation authorizes agencies to make payments from the federal Treasury.
- The White House released an [IRA guidebook](#) to the clean energy and climate provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act. It discusses clean energy tax incentives, including the 13 that Congress designated as "direct pay" tax provisions, meaning that local governments and other entities without tax liability can claim those tax credits as a direct payment from the Treasury. The guidebook also includes an overview of the two-year increase in Renewable Energy Investment Tax Credit for investments in small-scale solar and wind energy in low-income communities. *City staff is working to take advantage of these new provisions, as well as plan promotion to residents for new programs.*
- The Respect for Marriage Act was signed into law by President Biden after passing through the House and Senate. The bill requires all states to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states and federally recognizes these marriages. It also repeals the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibited the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages and allowed states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages performed elsewhere.
- Regarding federal equity initiatives, the Biden administration announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for \$1.5 billion in grant funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program for 2023. The program helps communities carry out projects with significant local or regional impact. This year's NOFO builds on the success of the RAISE program as authorized in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law by refining the rating rubric and continuing to give priority to safety, environmental sustainability, mobility and community connectivity, and quality of life. Although additional provisions regarding DACA were not included in the omnibus bill, support for funding and resources for local government and non-profit services for immigrants and humanitarian responses is included in the City Council's 2023 federal legislative program.
- The Biden administration's U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) released a plan for ending homelessness nationwide. It starts with the goal of reducing homelessness 25% by 2025. "All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness" aims to prevent homelessness by combatting systemic racism. *The Office of Homeless Solutions is currently reviewing the plan for City impact and opportunity.*
- In November, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released the National Broadband Map, which displays where internet services are and are not available across the country. Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar has asked the

DATE December 28, 2022
SUBJECT **Year End Federal Legislative Update**

federal government to extend the deadline by 60 days for states and stakeholders to provide input on the accuracy of the map. An accurate map will help identify the unserved and underserved communities most in need of funding for high-speed internet projects. *Working with the Chief of Staff and Resilience Officer, the City of Dallas is writing a letter to our federal delegation to ask for their support of this extension ahead of the deadline while preparing comments to challenge the accuracy of the maps.*

- Also, worth noting is the Friday, December 23, update on [City Activities for Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Funding](#) (2021).

Now that the FY24 Omnibus Appropriations Bill is signed into law, federal departments issuing Congressionally-directed funds will develop and release award guidelines, and OGA Fund Development staff will work with departments to complete all required steps to finalize funding. There is no set timeline for this process at this time, however, funds will come to Council for acceptance similar to the process followed for other grant funds.

The City of Dallas Office of Government Affairs continues to work with our partners and delegation in D.C. to champion the needs of our residents as we approach the start of the 118th Congress on January 3, 2023. We will continue to keep you apprised on next steps.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at carrie.rogers@dallas.gov.



Carrie Rogers
Director
Office of Government Affairs

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Deputy City Manager
Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager
Dr. Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager
Carl Simpson, Assistant City Manager
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Directors and Assistant Directors
Office of Government Affairs