

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE August 9, 2024

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **August 14, 2024 Upcoming Agenda Item #32 - Acceptance of FY21 RAISE Grant**

The August 14, 2024, City Council Agenda includes an item requesting City Council approval to accept a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation FY 2021 RAISE grant program to support planning and design for several projects surrounding the Southern Gateway Park.

BACKGROUND

The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program funds eligible surface transportation projects that have a significant local or regional impact, and advance safety, equity, sustainability, and good job creation. A direct successor to the TIGER and BUILD grant programs, the RAISE program is funded by a combination of appropriations from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and regular annual appropriations from Congress.

The City of Dallas partnered with the Southern Gateway Public Green Foundation and the Dallas Zoo to submit the *Connecting Communities in the Southern Gateway* application, which will fund planning and design for a series of mobility projects that will enhance connectivity throughout the historically underserved neighborhoods surrounding the future Southern Gateway Park and renovated Dallas Zoo plaza, and ensure safe connections into the Park and Zoo Plaza.

First, *Connecting Communities in the Southern Gateway* will create a master plan for projects connecting the surrounding neighborhoods in Oak Cliff into the Southern Gateway Park and Dallas Zoo. In addition, funding will provide for planning and design for five projects that increase safety and accessibility:


1. Pedestrian and ADA bridges from the Zoo's new parking garage and surface lot parking facilities across the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) light rail tracks at Clarendon Drive to safely move pedestrians from the Zoo DART Station and future parking garage to the Zoo's entrance and public green space.
2. Pedestrian and street grid improvements at S. Lancaster Avenue and 12th Street to link the Southern Gateway Park to neighborhoods west of IH-35E.
3. Pedestrian improvements at Ewing and the IH-35E northbound service road.
4. Moving the current Zoo entrance further north along the northbound frontage road to improve vehicle queuing into the Zoo and pedestrian safety.
5. A new exit from the zoo's parking garage to Marsalis.

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RAISE grants require a minimum of 20% in local matching funds be provided, with additional funding scoring higher. The City will provide \$69,090.91 in matching funds towards the master plan, and the Southern Gateway Public Green Foundation and Dallas Zoo will provide \$17,272.72 and \$388,636.37 respectively for planning and design. To facilitate the partnership, a Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted that outlines the roles and responsibilities of each partner, which includes the transfer of matching funds to the City.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ghassan “Gus” Khankarli, Ph.D. P.E., PMP, CLTD, Director of the Department of Transportation, at Ghassan.Khankarli@dallas.gov.

Service First, Now!


Dev Rastogi
Assistant City Manager

c: Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, City Manager (I)
Tammy Palomino, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety (I)
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager

Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager
Donzell Gipson, Assistant City Manager (I)
Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager (I)
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Elizabeth Saab, Chief of Strategy, Engagement, and Alignment (I)
Directors and Assistant Directors