

Board Agenda Item
October 24, 2017

ACTION -

Authorization for the Department of Transportation to Apply for Funding from the FY 2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant Program (Lee and Mount Vernon Districts)

ISSUE:

Board authorization is requested for the Department of Transportation to apply for FY 2017 TIGER program grant funds made available under the National Infrastructure Investment Program within the FY 2017 Federal Appropriations Act. The total County request for funding is \$37.0 million for the construction of the Frontier Drive Extension and the Richmond Highway Underpass. A 20 percent Local Cash Match of \$7.4 million is required and will be met in Fund 40010, County and Regional Transportation Projects. There is no impact to the General Fund. If the County is awarded funding, staff will submit another item to accept the awards and execute the grant agreements.

RECOMMENDATION:

The County Executive recommends that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Department of Transportation to apply for \$37.0 million in FY 2017 TIGER program grant funds.

TIMING:

Board of Supervisors' authorization is requested on October 24, 2017. Due to an application deadline of October 16, 2017, the applications were submitted pending Board approval. This Board item is being presented at the earliest subsequent Board meeting. If the Board does not approve this request, the applications will be immediately withdrawn.

BACKGROUND:

On September 7, 2017, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the FY 2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. The TIGER grant program supports projects that have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. This includes, but is not limited to: capital projects in areas which repair bridges or improve infrastructure to a state of good repair; projects that implement safety improvements to reduce fatalities and serious injuries, including improving grade crossings or providing shorter or more direct access to critical health

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services; projects that connect communities and people to jobs, services, and education; and projects that anchor economic revitalization and job growth in communities, specifically those that help bring manufacturing and other jobs. The TIGER grant program also supports projects that demonstrate significant non-Federal contributions from state, local, and private sector funding sources.

The federal government's FY 2017 Appropriations Act appropriated \$500 million to be awarded by USDOT for the TIGER grants program. The FY 2017 Appropriations Act further specifies that TIGER grants may not be less than \$5 million and not greater than \$25 million. FY 2017 TIGER funds are only available for obligation through September 30, 2020. No FY 2017 TIGER funds may be expended after September 30, 2025.

Formal Board authorization now is requested for the Fairfax County Department of Transportation's (FCDOT) application for TIGER FY 2017 grant program funds. Since the NOFO was issued after the deadline for Board Items to be submitted for the September 26, 2017, Board meeting, FCDOT apprised the Board of their intent to submit applications and seek authorization on the applications at the Board Transportation Committee meeting on October 10, 2017. Based on input from the Board, FCDOT submitted the FY 2017 TIGER applications on October 16, 2017.

FCDOT staff reviewed criteria for awarding TIGER funding and has submitted applications for the Frontier Drive Extension and the Richmond Highway CSX Underpass. Both projects were previously approved by the Board in the Transportation Priorities Plan on January 28, 2014. The following is a brief description of the projects:

Frontier Drive Extension - \$25.0 million

The Frontier Drive Extension from Franconia-Springfield Parkway to Loisdale Road provides greater mobility between Loisdale Road, the Medical Campus at Northern Virginia Community College, and the Franconia-Springfield Transit Center. The project makes improvements to the circulatory system around the Franconia-Springfield Transit Center, which provides improved access to both the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Metrorail System and Virginia Railway Express commuter rail service. It also modifies the ramps of Franconia-Springfield Interchange in Springfield, thereby reducing congestion on Loisdale Drive. It provides on-street parking along Frontier Drive, as well as pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The project is critical for the upcoming relocation of the Transportation Security Administration headquarters. Below is a summary of funding requirements for the project:

Total Project Estimate	\$89.5 million
TIGER Grant Funding	\$25.0 million
Local Cash Match (available)	\$ 5.0 million
NVTA 70% (anticipated)	\$49.5 million

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NVTA 30% (programmed)	\$10.0 million
Remaining Requirement:	\$ 0.0 million

Richmond Highway CSX Underpass (Atlantic Gateway) - \$12.0 million

The Richmond Highway CSX Underpass project makes intermodal and safety improvements to existing facilities at the intersection of Richmond Highway and the CSX Railroad in southern Fairfax County. The improvements include a railroad bridge replacement to support the addition of a third railroad track. The third track is an important element of the high speed rail component of the Atlantic Gateway project. In conjunction with the new bridge, this project also will lower the roadway and widen it to accommodate six lanes of traffic. The roadway improvements will provide improved clearance, enhance safety, enable more efficient movement of goods, facilitate the proposed Bus Rapid Transit system, and allow for the addition of pedestrian facilities. Below is a summary of funding requirements:

Total Project Estimate	\$56.0 million
TIGER Grant Funding	\$12.0 million
Local Cash Match (available)	\$ 2.4 million
VDOT/DRPT (anticipated)	\$35.0 million
NVTA 30% (available)	\$ 6.6 million
Remaining Requirement:	\$ 0.0 million

The Department of Transportation will continue to pursue additional grant awards to support the remaining funding needed for these projects. Ultimately, if no additional grant funding is received, funding in Fund 40010, County and Regional Transportation Projects will be used to complete the projects, no additional General Fund resources will be requested.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Total grant funding of \$37.0 million is being requested for the construction of the Frontier Drive Extension and the Richmond Highway Underpass projects. This amount includes grant funding of \$25.0 million for the Frontier Drive Extension and \$12.0 million for the Richmond Highway CSX Underpass project. It is anticipated that the Commonwealth also will provide \$35 million for the Richmond Highway Underpass project. The total required Local Cash Match of \$7.4 million (\$5.0 million for Frontier Drive Extension and \$2.4 million for Richmond Highway CSX Underpass) has been identified in Fund 40010, County and Regional Transportation Projects. An additional \$6.6 million to support the Richmond Highway CSX Underpass project will also come from these sources. An additional \$10.0 million to support the Frontier Drive Project also is anticipated from these other sources. No new General Fund resources are required. If these awards are received, the appropriation will be requested in Fund

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50000, Federal-State Grant Fund as part of a quarterly review. This grant does not allow for the recovery of indirect costs.

CREATION OF NEW POSITIONS:

No positions will be created.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1; Resolution – TIGER Grant application

STAFF:

Robert A. Stalzer, Deputy County Executive

Tom Biesiadny, Director, Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT)

Todd Wigglesworth, Chief, Coordination and Funding Division, FCDOT

Brent Riddle, Transportation Planner, Coordination and Funding FCDOT