

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 19, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **RAISE Grant for Connecting Communities in the Southern Gateway**

This week, Congressional Offices were notified that the City of Dallas, in partnership with the Southern Gateway Public Green Foundation and the Dallas Zoo, are recipients of \$900,000 from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) 2021 funding opportunity under the planning category for three related connectivity projects collectively known as *Connecting Communities in the Southern Gateway*.

RAISE, formerly known as BUILD and TIGER, is discretionary grant funding awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation for transportation projects that create high-quality jobs, improve safety, protect our environment, and generate equitable economic opportunity. These grants are highly competitive and this is the City's first award since receiving TIGER funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009 for the Dallas streetcar.

The *Connecting Communities in the Southern Gateway* project will have significant local and regional impacts as it will establish connections to the historically under-served neighborhoods surrounding the Dallas Zoo and the Southern Gateway Park. A neighborhood overlay and comprehensive master plan will be created for future infrastructure, mobility, and connectivity projects. In addition, the project will support design and engineering for three connectivity projects that will create safe passage from the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) light rail station to Jefferson and 12th Street, an area currently divided by roadways, parking lots, and Interstate I-35E.

In addition to the direct award, the City also partnered on successful applications with the Texas Department of Transportation for the LOOP Trail, and North Central Texas Council of Government to improve access to the International Inland Port of Dallas, bringing the total investment for transportation projects in the city to \$21M.

Please contact Brett Wilkinson, Director of the Office of Government Affairs at [brett.wilkinson@dallascityhall.com](mailto:brett.wilkinson@dallascityhall.com) if you have questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly Bizer Tolbert'.

Kimberly Bizer Tolbert  
Chief of Staff to the City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Chris Caso, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion  
Directors and Assistant Directors