

T & I COMMITTEE

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users SAFETEA-LU Priorities

Organization: Asia Society Texas Center

Project Title: Asia Society Texas Center Regional Park and Ride Facility

Total Cost of the Project: \$1,300,000

Amount Requested: \$1,040,000

Brief Description: The Park and Ride Facility will enable individuals to utilize federally funded modes of transportation that will reduce the use of automobiles on Houston's side streets and freeways, decrease traffic congestion; and sequentially decrease Houston's notorious pollution levels.

Organization: City of Houston, Parks and Recreation

Project Title: White Oak Pedestrian Trail Extension and Bridges

Total Cost of the Project: \$4,000,000

Amount Requested: \$3,200,000

Brief Description: The White Oak Pedestrian Bayou Trail Extension provides approximately 2.5 miles of bicycle pedestrian trail which will provide alternate transportation and contribute to the health, safety, environmental protection, and economic vitality of the community.

Organization: City of Houston

Project Title: Houston West Belt Rail/ Mobility Improvement Project

Total Cost of the Project: \$1,300,000

Amount Requested: \$48,500,000

Brief Description: This project will provide freight and vehicle mobility, enhanced safety for pedestrians and rivers at crossings, reduced idling and emissions at crossings, and enable establishment of quiet zones.

Organization: City of Houston

Project Title: Streetscape Improvements Along Light Rail Transit (LRT)

Total Cost of the Project: \$18,750,000

Amount Requested: \$15,000,000

Brief Description: This project will improve the public realm around the Light Rail corridors, and is necessary in preparing for the mobility challenges associated with the expected increase in population and job growth.

Organization: Downtown Management District

Project Title: Downtown Clean Air Transit Circulator

Total Cost of the Project: \$3,000,000

Amount Requested: \$2,400,000

Brief Description: This project will provide capital resources to maximize the reduction of air pollution for a new transit service oriented to downtown Houston. It will connect office, residential, retail, government, and environmental origins and destinations within Downtown.

Organization: Greater Southeast Management District

Project Title: GSMD Transit Access Master Plan

Total Cost of the Project: \$2,695,660

Amount Requested: \$2,156,528

Brief Description: The Transit Access Master Plan will implement final design and construction of pedestrian-transit access and streetscape improvements in the Greater Southeast Management District.

Organization: METRO

Project Title: Bus Rapid Transit Program

Total Cost of the Project: \$15,000,000

Amount Requested: \$12,000,000

Brief Description: The Bus Program is part of an overall system of interrelated projects that make up that Advanced Transit Program/ METRO Solution System Plan.

Organization: Midtown Management District

Project Title: Transit Master Plan – Phase IV

Total Cost of the Project: \$2,000,000

Amount Requested: \$1,600,000

Brief Description: This is a mobility project that will improve connectivity for pedestrians in Midtown to access transit services by installing sidewalks, landscaping, ADA ramps, curbs, and other pedestrian related infrastructure.

Organization: Port of Houston

Project Title: Construct Two-lane Southern Access Road from Old SH146 to Port Road

Total Cost of the Project: \$12,251,000

Amount Requested: \$9,801,000

Brief Description: The construction of the southern access road identified in the Bayport Master Plan, which is a realigned eastward extension of Red Bluff Road. Approximate length of the project is 2.21 miles.

Organization: Port of Houston

Project Title: Construct Bayport Intermodal Rail yard – Phase II (West)

Total Cost of the Project: \$40,699,000

Amount Requested: \$32,559,000

Brief Description: Develops the second portion of the Bayport Intermodal yard, with site work, utilities, security systems, runways for cranes, and the track for building train sections and loading containers with import and export cargo. It includes 6 storage tracks, 3 working tracks, and 1 container track.

Organization: Texas Department of Transportation

Project Title: 2008 – 2011 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

Total Cost of the Project: \$ 86,004,610

Amount Requested: \$68,383,688

Brief Description: This transportation enhancement project will widen and reconstruct two three lane roads with bridges at White Oak, Durham, and Shepard on Interstate Hwy I10.

Organization: Texas Department of Transportation

Project Title: 2008 – 2011 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

Total Cost of the Project: \$ 9,700,000

Amount Requested: \$7,760,000

Brief Description: This transportation enhancement project will construct a southbound to westbound direct connect bridge from State Highway 249 to Beltway 8.

Organization: Texas Medical Center

Project Title: Elevated Patient and Pedestrian Transit Corridors

Total Cost of the Project: \$36,000,000

Amount Requested: \$28,800,000

Brief Description: This project is to develop elevated and pedestrian “sky bridges” to improve pedestrian circulation and safety in the Medical Center.

Organization: University of Houston

Project Title: South University Multi-Modal Transportation Center at Wheeler Ave.

Total Cost of the Project: \$20,200,000

Amount Requested: \$16,200,000

Brief Description: The Multi-Modal transportation center will provide better transportation options between the University of Houston Campus, METRO, and the surrounding community. This is in order to prepare for estimated growth of the University of Houston in the next 10-20 years.

T&I COMMITTEE REQUIREMENTS

- The Committee requires all projects to meet eligibility criteria under Title 23 (Highways) or Chapter 53 of Title 49 (Public Transit) of the United States Code to ensure that HPPs comply with highway and transit program objectives. In addition, the Committee specifically prohibits HPP funding for non-surface transportation projects, such as funding of transportation museums, horse trails, historic battlefields, and other non-transportation projects.
- The Committee requires Members to provide specific information on the type, location, total cost, percentage of total cost that the request would finance, and benefits of the project, in order for the Committee to effectively analyze the merits of project requests.
- The Committee requires Members to specifically identify funding to finance at least 80 percent of the total cost of the phase or segment of the project requested by either (1) the amount requested by the Member; or (2) the amount requested by the Member and other specifically designated Federal, state, local, or private funding sources.
- To ensure that HPPs have significant state or local support, the Committee requires Members to provide at least one letter of support for the project from the State Department of Transportation or affected local government or governmental agency.
- The Committee requires such government to specify the process which will be followed to provide an opportunity for public comment (such as the Environmental Impact Statement or other permitting process that requires public review) on the project.
- The Committee also requires such government to identify other Federal, state, local, or private funding sources that may be used to advance the project.
- To ensure greater transparency and accountability for HPPs, the Committee establishes the following transparency and accountability principles:
 - Members are required to certify that neither the Member nor his or her spouse has any financial interest in a project requested;
 - Members are required to post submissions for projects on the Member's website;
 - The Committee will afford the U.S. Department of Transportation at least 20 days to review all project requests to ensure that the projects meet program eligibility criteria;
 - A list of all Member-designated Surface Transportation High Priority Projects that are included in the bill will be posted on the Committee website; and
 - A copy of all Member financial interest certifications for HPPs that are included in the bill will be posted on the Committee website.
- The Committee intends to repeal prior ISTEA and TEA 21 project designations that have not proceeded to construction or have remaining unused funds to ensure the effective use of highway and transit funds.