

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**MEMORANDUM**

FOR: Chair Randall and Members
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

FROM: Monica Backmon, Executive Director

DATE: March 11, 2021

SUBJECT: NVRTA Endorsement of Prince William County INFRA Program Application

- 1. Purpose:** Endorsement of Prince William County's application for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) discretionary grant program for the Route 123 Improvements at I-95, Route 1, and Old Bridge Road Project.
- 2. Suggested Motion:** *I move Authority endorsement of Prince William County's (INFRA) discretionary grant program application for the Route 123 Improvements at I-95, Route 1, and Old Bridge Road Project.*
- 3. Background:** The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) today announced it is seeking applicants for the FY 2021 round of the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) discretionary grant program to fund transportation projects of national and regional significance that are in line with the Biden Administration's principles for national infrastructure projects that result in good-paying jobs, improve safety, apply transformative technology, and explicitly address climate change and racial equity.

The funding available for this year's grants totals approximately \$889 million.

The Department recognizes the role that infrastructure investment plays in economic development and job creation, and the added urgency of this funding at time when the COVID-19 pandemic has put stress on state and local budgets.

For the first time, the USDOT seeks INFRA projects that address climate change and environmental justice. Projects will be evaluated on whether they were planned as part of a comprehensive strategy to address climate change, or whether they support strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as deploying zero-emission-vehicle infrastructure or encouraging modal shift and a reduction in vehicle-miles-traveled.

Racial equity will also be considered as a selection criterion, to the extent that project sponsors have completed equity-focused community outreach, and projects are designed to benefit underserved communities. The Department will also consider whether the project is located in a federally designated community development zone, including qualified Opportunity Zones, Empowerment Zones, Promise Zones, or Choice Neighborhoods.

USDOT seeks projects that apply innovative technology, delivery, or financing methods with proven outcomes to deliver projects in a cost-effective manner.

The Department will make awards under the INFRA program to both large and small projects. For a large project, the INFRA grant must be at least \$25 million. For a small project, the grant must be at least \$5 million.

Under statutory requirements, 10 percent of available funds are reserved for small projects, and the Department must award at least 25 percent of funding for rural projects. INFRA grants may be used to fund a variety of components of an infrastructure project, however, the Department is specifically focused on projects in which the local sponsor is significantly invested and is positioned to proceed rapidly to construction. Eligible INFRA project costs may include: reconstruction, rehabilitation, acquisition of property (including land related to the project and improvements to the land), environmental mitigation, construction contingencies, equipment acquisition, and operational improvements directly related to system performance.

Prince William County has requested Authority endorsement of their application on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, for the Route 123 Improvements at I-95, Route 1, and Old Bridge Road Project. Improvements that encompass this overall project are part of TransAction (TransAction ID 218 and 244) and is a key component of improving segment 8-1 of the I-95/US 1 Corridor.

Prince William County's application includes interchange improvements at Route 123/I-95, intersection improvements at Route 123/Route 1, and intersection improvements at Route 123/Old Bridge Road. The overall project and these three locations are currently being evaluated under VDOT's Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) program to identify the optimal design to achieve regional mobility goals in a cost-efficient manner. The funding need is contingent on the result of this evaluation, but we anticipate requesting up to \$100 million towards the project.

Next Step: Application deadline is Friday, March 19, 2021.

Attachments: Letter from Prince William County Requesting Support
NVTA Letter of Endorsement to USDOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

March 11, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Reference: Prince William County, Virginia's INFRA Grant Application: Route 123
Improvements at I-95, Route 1, and Old Bridge Road

Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing you on behalf of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) to express support for Prince William County's application submitted to the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) discretionary grant program for the Route 123 Improvements at I-95, Route 1, and Old Bridge Road project. NVTA is responsible for setting regional transportation policies and priorities and developing a long-range transportation plan, known as TransAction, for improving mobility and reducing congestion in the Northern Virginia Region. The Route 123 Improvements at I-95, Route 1, and Old Bridge Road project is part of TransAction (TransAction ID 218 and 244) and is a key component of improving segment 8-1 of the I-95/US 1 Corridor.

Prince William County's application includes interchange improvements at Route 123/I-95, intersection improvements at Route 123/Route 1, and intersection improvements at Route 123/Old Bridge Road. The overall project and these three locations are currently being evaluated under the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) program to identify the optimal design to achieve regional mobility goals in a cost-efficient manner.

The Route 123 Improvements at I-95, Route 1, and Old Bridge Road is regionally significant as it serves two corridors of statewide significance, is located half a mile from the boundary line between the two most populous counties in Virginia and provides access to high-capacity transit. This multimodal project will reduce congestion and improve mobility along the I-95 and US 1 corridors in accordance with NVTA objectives. An INFRA grant would greatly facilitate construction of this project and we thank you for your time and assistance with this request.

I respectfully ask that you give this grant application your most thoughtful and serious consideration. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Phyllis J. Randall
Chair
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

CC: Chair Ann Wheeler, Prince William Board of County Supervisors
Ricardo Canizales, Prince William County, Director Department of Transportation
Monica Backmon, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, Executive Director

Attachment.



PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY

Department of Transportation

Ricardo Canizales

Director of Transportation

March 9, 2021

Monica Backmon
Executive Director
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)
3040 Williams Drive
Fairfax, VA 22031

RE: Request for NVTA Endorsement of Prince William County's INFRA Application for Route 123 Improvements at I-95, Route 1, and Old Bridge Road

Ms. Backmon,

I am writing to request NVTA's endorsement of Prince William County's application under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Discretionary Grant Program for Route 123 Improvements at I-95, Route 1, and Old Bridge Road. Improvements that encompass this overall project are part of TransAction (TransAction ID 218 and 244) and is a key component of improving segment 8-1 of the I-95/US 1 Corridor.

Prince William County's application includes interchange improvements at Route 123/I-95, intersection improvements at Route 123/Route 1, and intersection improvements at Route 123/Old Bridge Road. The overall project and these three locations are currently being evaluated under VDOT's Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) program to identify the optimal design to achieve regional mobility goals in a cost-efficient manner. The funding need is contingent on the result of this evaluation, but we anticipate requesting up to \$100 million towards the project.

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If you have any questions or comments regarding this request, please contact me at (703) 792-6825.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ricardo Canizales", written over a white rectangular background.

Ricardo Canizales
Director of Transportation