

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair Phyllis J. Randall and Members
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

FROM: Monica Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: May 05, 2022

SUBJECT: NVTA Endorsement of Prince William County's FY2022 Mega and INFRA Discretionary Grant Program Application

- 1. Purpose:** To seek the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) approval of the letter of endorsement for Prince William County's FY2022 Mega and INFRA Discretionary Grant Program Application.
- 2. Suggested Motion:** *I move the Authority approval of the letter of endorsement for Prince William County's FY2022 Mega and INFRA Discretionary Grant Program Application.*
- 3. Background:**
NVTA has previously endorsed Prince William County's FY2021 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) application under the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program for Route 123 at Interstate 95 Corridor Innovative Intersection Improvements project. Prince William County now seeks NVTA endorsement of funding for the same project under their FY2022 MPDG application for USDOT's National Infrastructure Project Assistance Grant Program (Mega), and the INFRA Grant Program.

Prince William County's Request for MPDG Funding

A. USDOT Mega Grant Program

B. USDOT INFRA Grant Program

A. Mega Grant Program:

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Mega Grant Program (known statutorily as the National Infrastructure Project Assistance program) which was enacted in 2021 as part of a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), seeks to support large, complex projects that are difficult to fund by other means and likely to generate national or regional economic, mobility, or safety benefits.

The Mega Grant Program funding will be made available in 2022 under the MPDG's combined Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) that will allow applicants to use one

application to apply for up to three separate discretionary grant opportunities. For FY2022-FY2026, \$5 billion will be available until such funds are expended.

Mega Grant Program Criteria:

Projects for the Mega grant program funding will be evaluated based on Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) that clearly quantifies and compares expected benefits and costs of the potential investment. Available funding under the Mega Grant Program will be used to ensure that devoted projects provide significant economic benefits to users and the Nation as a whole, relative to the resources required to implement those projects.

B. Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Grants Program:

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program also known statutorily as the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight & Highway Projects, awards competitive grants for multimodal freight and highway projects of national or regional significance, to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of freight and people in and across rural and urban areas.

In 2021, INFRA was updated to include new eligibilities, set asides, and other programming changes in the BIL which was substantively changed from the FAST Act of 2015. \$7.25 billion in funding is available through the INFRA Grants Program during a four-year period beginning in FY2022.

INFRA Grant Program Criteria:

Like Mega grant program funding, INFRA grant program funding will also be evaluated based on Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) that clearly quantifies and compares expected benefits and costs of the potential investment. Available funding under the INFRA grant program will be used to ensure that devoted projects provide significant economic benefits to the region and the Nation as a whole, relative to the resources required to implement those projects.

4. Project Scope Under Prince William County's Mega and INFRA Grant Program Application:

The Route 123 Corridor at I-95 Corridor Innovative Intersection Improvements project consists of improvements to the intersections of Route 123 with Route 1, I-95, and Old Bridge Road. These three intersections were evaluated under Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) program to identify innovative, cost-efficient solutions that provide operational, safety and multimodal benefits. The Commonwealth of Virginia has funded improvements at the intersection of I-95 and the County is seeking funding for the remaining improvements, which include a TransAction project (ID#: 218).

These projects will improve operations along TransAction Corridor 8-1, and improve access to high occupancy vehicle, bus, and rail transit options at the Woodbridge Virginia Rail Express station as well as two commuter lots. This project has been previously endorsed by NVTA for Prince William County's FY2021 MPDG application for federal funding through the USDOT's INFRA and RAISE grant programs.

Attachment:

- A. Prince William County's Request for Endorsement Letter
- B. Draft Endorsement Letter for Prince William County's Mega and INFRA Application



April 21, 2022

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

RE: Request for NVTA Endorsement of Prince William County's MPDG Application for the Route 123 at I-95 Corridor Innovative Intersection Improvements project

Ms. Backmon,

I am writing to request NVTA's endorsement of Prince William County's application for funding consideration under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program. The Route 123 at Interstate 95 Corridor Innovative Intersections Improvements is a local priority project that will provide significant congestion reduction and multimodal connectivity benefits to the region.

The Route 123 Corridor at I-95 Improvements project consists of improvements to the intersections of Route 123 with Route 1, I-95 and Old Bridge Road. These three intersections were evaluated under VDOT's Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) program to identify innovative, cost-efficient solutions that provide operational, safety and multimodal benefits. The Commonwealth has funded improvements at the intersection with I-95 and the County is seeking funding for the remaining improvements, which includes a TransAction project (ID 218). These projects will improve operations along TransAction Corridor 8-1 and improve access to high occupancy vehicle, bus and rail transit options at the Woodbridge VRE station and two commuter lots. This project has been previously endorsed by the Authority for application for federal funding through the USDOT INFRA and RAISE programs.

Federal funding through the MPDG program would greatly facilitate construction of this and we thank you for your time and assistance with this request. 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".

Director of Transportation



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

May 05, 2022

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

Re: NVTA Endorsement of Prince William County's FY2022 MPDG Application for the Route 123 at I-95 Corridor Innovative Intersection Improvement Project.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), I am writing to express our full support for endorsement of Prince William County's application under the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. The Route 123 at Interstate 95 Corridor Innovative Intersections Improvements project is a local priority project that will provide significant congestion reduction and multimodal connectivity benefits to the region.

The Route 123 Corridor at I-95 Improvements project consists of improvements to the intersections of Route 123 with Route 1, I-95, and Old Bridge Road. These three intersections were evaluated under Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) program to identify innovative, cost-efficient solutions that provide operational, safety and multimodal benefits. The Commonwealth of Virginia has funded improvements at the intersection of I-95 and the County is seeking funding for the remaining improvements, which includes a TransAction project (ID#: 218). These projects will improve operations along TransAction Corridor 8-1 and improve access to high occupancy vehicle, bus, and rail transit options at the Woodbridge Virginia Rail Express station and two commuter lots. This project has been previously endorsed by NVTA for Prince William County's FY2021 MPDG application for federal funding through the USDOT's INFRA Grant Program as well as the RAISE Grant Program.

Federal funding through the MPDG program would greatly facilitate this construction project which has national and regional significance.

Thank you for your consideration of Prince William County's FY2022 MPDG discretionary grant application as well as your time and attention.

Best Regards,

Phyllis J. Randall
Chair

Cc: The Honorable Ann Wheeler, Chair of Prince William County Government
Ricardo Canizales, Director of Transportation, Prince William County
Monica Backmon, NVTA Chief Executive Officer