

TIGER Discretionary Grants - North Lamar Boulevard & Burnet Road Corridor Improvements Project

The North Lamar Boulevard and Burnet Road Corridor Improvements CIP project is a voter-approved named project from the 2012 General Obligation bond, with a total appropriation of \$15 million to address multi-modal corridor improvements in both the North Lamar Boulevard and Burnet Road corridors.

The North Lamar Boulevard, US Hwy 183 - IH 35 and Burnet Rd, Koenig Ln – MoPac Preliminary Engineering Report (CIP project 9383.001), was completed in 2013 as part of the City's Corridor Improvement Program. The North Lamar / Burnet Corridor Development Program Report identified \$152 million in multi-modal improvements for both the North Lamar Boulevard and Burnet Road corridors, which are located in Council Districts 4 and 7. A significant portion of residents along the corridors are dependent on transportation modes such as walking, biking, and transit. Recommendations in the Corridor Report were therefore developed with a focus on all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and motorists. Evaluation topics for the preliminary engineering report included pedestrian safety, mobility and congestion, existing transit and bike facilities, constructability, conditions of existing sidewalk and connectivity needs, existing infrastructure conditions, and population density. The vision of the North Lamar Boulevard and Burnet Road Corridor Improvements CIP project is to implement recommendations from the Corridor Report by addressing pedestrian, bicycle, transit and vehicular connectivity throughout both corridors and constructing sections of complete streets in both corridors as the project budget and schedule allow.

Cross-departmental City of Austin staff members are seeking Council authorization for jointly applying with Capital Metropolitan Transit Authority (CapMetro) for a U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant. The proposed project for the TIGER Grant, Austin's Multi-Modal MetroRapid Corridor Project, will provide multi-modal improvements along N. Lamar Blvd. and Burnet Rd. as well as additional CapMetro Bus Rapid Transit station pairs and buses and a bus transfer center/park-and-ride facility. City staff members propose to utilize \$10 million of the \$15 million appropriations of the CIP project to seek a \$10 million match from the TIGER Grant. The remaining \$5 million from the CIP project will be available for staff time not eligible with the TIGER grant, change order contingency, and future civil design for both corridors. As per the 2012 General Obligation bond language, if the TIGER Grant is awarded, the \$10 million funding from the CIP project and any funding match from the TIGER Grant will remain within the CIP project limits of North Lamar Boulevard and Burnet Road.

Proposed short-term project elements include:

- Burnet Rd and Koenig Ln/FM 2222 intersection improvements, which will provide child safety improvements for students, bus stop connectivity, improved access to a grocery store, and a new urban trail around Lamar Middle School which will connect with existing pedestrian facilities and bicycle routes. The Principal of Lamar Middle School is in favor of this improvement, and has offered to move existing fencing around the school to accommodate these improvements.

RCA Item 45241
Exhibit B

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- Improved pedestrian accessibility across Lamar Blvd on the north side of 183, providing connectivity to the existing North Lamar Transit Center (CapMetro park-and-ride facility). By comparison, the closest pedestrian crossing across N Lamar Blvd is approximately 3,000 feet north of the proposed cantilevered pedestrian bridge improvements.
- Sidewalk and bicycle connectivity throughout both corridors, with priorities assigned to child safety opportunities, bus stop connectivity, and priorities outlined in the respective Sidewalk, Bicycle, and Urban Trails Master Plans.
- Corridor-wide bus pad improvements that improve accessibility to transit.
- Intersection improvements, including optimizing signal timing.
- Lighting throughout both corridors for multi-modal safety improvements.
- Right-of-way vegetation and landscaping throughout both corridors.

Proposed changes on Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) right-of-way are subject to TxDOT approval. Proposed concepts will be reviewed by the community through a series of public engagement events prior to finalizing design.

If authorization is given to apply for the TIGER Grant in cooperation with CapMetro, City staff will seek letters of support from TxDOT, Lamar Middle School, and Neighborhood Associations along both corridors.

City staff members will continue to work collaboratively on identifying long-range improvements for both corridors, which includes utility improvements and street reconstruction or rehabilitation. These types of improvements are costly and may take years to design and construct. It is intended that the North Lamar Boulevard and Burnet Road Corridor Improvements CIP project will address immediate multi-modal transportation and safety needs, and the long-term utility improvements and street reconstruction or rehabilitation needs will be addressed via future General Obligation bond elections.