

RESOLUTION R-2019-13

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BASTROP, TEXAS SUPPORTING THE CITY OF BASTROP'S SUBMISSION OF AN ED-900P – PROPOSAL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA) ASSISTANCE GRANT REQUESTING FUNDING TO COMPLETE AGNES STREET FROM THE EDGE OF SETON HOSPITAL TO ITS EASTERN CONNECTION POINT JUST WEST OF HASLER BOULEVARD; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) has allocated \$90 million in FY 2018 supplemental appropriations for disaster recovery grants to support recovery activities in areas receiving a major disaster designation due to Hurricane Harvey and other 2017 natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bastrop, in collaboration with Bastrop Economic Development Corporation (BEDC), are submitting a grant \$1.5 million to complete Agnes Street between Seton Hospital to its eastern connection point just west of Hasler Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, the project scope is the completion of identified infrastructure in the City's Transportation Master Plan for the design and construction of Agnes Street, located in the City of Bastrop. When completed, this street will be located south of State Highway 71 and east of State Highway 304, providing significant east/west connectivity from Childers Street to SH 304. The only east/west connection through the City is currently State Highway 71; and

WHEREAS, this project is deemed critical on the City's Transportation Master Plan, which was updated as a part of a community-wide strategic planning initiative in 2016, given its human safety, financial sustainability, and economic resiliency components; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bastrop has determined "Special Need" as the basis of economic distress for eligibility. Bastrop has routinely experienced numerous natural disasters over the last decade. The largest wildfire in Texas occurred in Bastrop in 2011, four (4) FEMA declared flooding disasters occurred in 2015 and 2016, plus Hurricane Harvey in 2017; and

WHEREAS, evacuations for any disaster is difficult because there is only one (1) east/west connection, State Highway 71. State Highway 71 is a crucial evacuation route for all cities along the Texas coast between Houston and Austin. If the highway is already at capacity, it further exacerbates the community's ability to self-evacuate. Completion of Agnes Street offers a critical alternate route; and

WHEREAS, if State Highway 71 was to shut-down for any length of time, the City's commerce would come to a halt creating significant economic distress and hinders the community's ability to be resilient. The City's General Fund budget is heavily dependent upon sales tax, which comprises 41% of its annual revenue. The proposed project will provide opportunities for economic development that will increase property tax valuations, creating a more-diversified revenue stream for the City, County, and School District;

WHEREAS, the completion of Agnes Street will also have an immediate, significant economic impact to Bastrop by making large tract properties accessible and marketable for industry attraction. It also supports goals in the Comprehensive Plan and is a noted project in the Transportation Master Plan, both adopted by City Council in November 2016; and

WHEREAS, these large tracts of land are along the SH 71 corridor and have been identified as key economic development opportunities. However, these tracts are dependent upon this project for accessibility. With Seton Hospital and the regional location of this property along the SH 71 growth corridor, it is prime for immediate private development and the creation of job opportunities within primary industry sectors, offering wages higher than the regional average; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the crucial need for this transportation project, the Bastrop Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) has agreed to fund the 20% match. Funding for this project is immediately available without restrictions. There will be collaboration with property owners benefiting from this project. All property owners have pledged to dedicate the right-of-way needed for this project at no expense to the community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BASTROP, TEXAS:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Bastrop supports the City of Bastrop's submission of an ED-900P – Proposal for Economic Development Administration Assistance requesting funding to complete Agnes Street from the edge of Seton Hospital to its eastern connection point just west of Hasler Boulevard.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Bastrop authorizes the City Manager to execute all necessary documentation regarding this grant..

Section 3: This resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage, and it is duly resolved.

DULY RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Bastrop this 22nd day of January, 2019.

APPROVED:



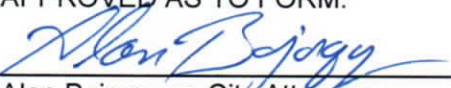
Connie B. Schroeder, Mayor

ATTEST:



Ann Franklin, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Alan Bojorquez, City Attorney