



Board Report

File #: A 23-050, **Version:** 1

- a. Approve the submittal of a grant application under the Department of Transportation's National Infrastructure Investments, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program, to request funding for the Davis Road Bridge Replacement and Road Widening Project; and
- b. Authorize the Director of Public Works, Facilities and Parks (PWFP), or designee, to act as the agent for the County in processing all documentation to secure these funds; and
- c. Direct PWFP to return to the Board for approval prior to acceptance of any grant award(s).

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a. Approve the submittal of a grant application under the Department of Transportation's National Infrastructure Investments, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program, to request funding for the Davis Road Bridge Replacement and Road Widening Project; and
- b. Authorize the Director of Public Works, Facilities and Parks (PWFP), or designee, to act as the agent for the County in processing all documentation to secure these funds; and
- c. Direct PWFP to return to the Board for approval prior to acceptance of any grant award(s).

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

Grant Program Background

On January 3, 2023, the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) published the amendment to the Notice of Funding Opportunity, which included an \$800 million increase in funding for a total of \$2.3 billion in available grant funding through its Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program. The RAISE discretionary grants were originally created under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants and can be used to fund a wide variety of transportation projects with significant local or regional impact. The competitive Grant Program will fund surface transportation infrastructure projects (including planning and capital projects) that will improve safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness and opportunity, state of good repair, partnership and collaboration, and innovation. The RAISE Grant Program review and selection process consists of Merit Criteria Review, Project Readiness Review, Economic Analysis, and Senior Review. Grant applications are due at 11:59 PM (Eastern Standard Time) on February 28, 2023.

Grant Application

The Monterey County Department of Public Works, Facilities and Parks (PWFP) is preparing a grant application for the Davis Road Bridge Replacement and Road Widening Project (Project). The Project is located south of the City of Salinas, connecting Salinas to the Monterey Peninsula. The existing transportation network is strained by daily traffic congestion and backups. The Project consists of widening this vital regional route to accommodate the current travel demands and future growth. The Project will increase roadway capacity by widening approximately 2.1 miles of the existing two-lane Davis Road to four lanes between Blanco Road and Reservation Road. The improvements will include the construction of eight-foot-wide bicycle lanes (Class II bikeway) and provide an opportunity for rapid transit service. The Project also includes

the replacement of the existing two-lane, low-level Davis Road Bridge (State Bridge No. 44C-0068) with a longer bridge that accommodates the 100-year flood level and meets the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) requirements. Through the subject application, the County is requesting approximately \$24.5 million, roughly 30% of the estimated \$74.5 million total project costs.

With the Board's support, PWFP applied to the 2022 RAISE grant funding solicitation. The Project was not selected for that grant cycle. However, PWFP solicited and received feedback from the grant review panel, and the Project received high rankings in most evaluation categories. PWFP staff is refining and bolstering the project narrative to address the feedback received to make an even more robust application for the 2023 RAISE grant application.

If the proposed grant application is selected to receive funding, staff will return to the Board for approval to accept the grant award and approve the Project. Programming Federal transportation funds will support construction jobs, enhance public safety, as well as provide needed improvements for economic development, business retention, quality of life, and mobility throughout the County.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The Project is included in transportation plans for the Monterey County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) Regional Transportation Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and Federal Transportation Plan (FTP). The County is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), while Caltrans is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

FINANCING:

If funding is awarded for the Project, PWFP will use this portion of the funds (\$24.5 million) for the road widening component of the Project as it is currently only partially funded. The total Project cost estimate is \$77.7 million. PWFP has secured \$46.86 million in funding the Project, mainly through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Highway Bridge Program (HBP). RAISE requires a 20% local match, which will be provided by RSTP (Regional Surface Transportation Program) funds and development impact fees. Staff will also continue to work with TAMC to secure the additional funds (estimated at \$9.1 million) programmed in the Regional Development Impact Fee (RDIF) Program for the Project. The availability of these funds are dependent on the programming assumption in TAMC's Strategic Expenditure Plan for RDIF Program.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

The Project will construct sustainable, physical infrastructure that improves the quality of life for County residents and visitors. The recommended action supports the following Board of Supervisors' Strategic Initiatives:

	Economic Development
	Administration
	Health & Human Services
<u>X</u>	Infrastructure
<u>X</u>	Public Safety

Prepared by: Maribel Zendejas, Management Analyst II, (831) 755-5304
Enrique Saavedra, PE, Chief of Public Works

Reviewed by: Tom Bonigut, PE, Assistant Director of Public Works, Facilities and Parks

Approved by: Randell Ishii, MS, PE, TE, PTOE, Director of Public Works, Facilities and Parks

The following attachments are on file with the Clerk of the Board:

Attachment A - Project Location Map