



City of Long Beach

Working Together to Serve

Memorandum

Date: March 8, 2016

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *P.H. West*

From: *CB* Craig Beck, Interim Director of Public Works

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: USDOT "Smart Cities" Grant Proposal

Recent traffic studies have indicated that many communities, mainly mid-sized cities, will experience population increases and increasing demands on their transportation infrastructure in the next few decades. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has designed the Smart City Challenge to help cities start addressing the challenges these trends would present.

This grant will dedicate federal resources into one medium-sized city to evaluate what can be achieved when communities use technology to connect transportation assets into an interactive network. Up to \$40 million in funding will be provided to the city that provides bold, data-driven ideas to improve lives by improving safety, mobility, and reliability. The Smart City Challenge will also highlight the role of public-private partnerships in addressing current transportation challenges. The DOT is partnering with Vulcan Philanthropy (Vulcan) for this competition. Vulcan will add \$10 million of funding to the winning city to support the deployment of electric vehicles and other strategies to reduce carbon emissions.

Applications for the grant were due on February 16, 2016, and 78 eligible cities across the nation submitted applications. Eligible cities were asked to first submit their visions for a smart transportation future. The five cities with the best preliminary proposals will each receive \$100,000 to prepare a final proposal for the grant. The five finalists will be announced in Austin, Texas, on March 12, 2016.

In its preliminary application (proposal), the City of Long Beach presented its vision for "connected infrastructure, connected people, and a connected city." The proposal highlighted how the automation of the City and Port, through a \$40 to \$50 million investment, will significantly increase the capacity of trade, while simultaneously improving regional mobility, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It was emphasized that this investment will unlock economic benefits not only in Long Beach and the surrounding Los Angeles Metropolitan area, but throughout the United States. Twelve vision elements were addressed, each with their foreseen planned approach and potential results. The elements will create a highly-integrated transportation network that monitors and responds to the people it supports on a daily basis.

The city with the best proposal will be set to launch an intelligent transportation revolution. This may include electric vehicles, automated transit corridors, vehicle-to-vehicle communication, automated and driverless vehicles, advanced parking management, and data sharing needed to facilitate a multi-modal system. Additionally, the best proposal will embrace a robust transportation infrastructure with integrated systems, allow for public participation, and incorporate new concepts.

If the City is successful in becoming one of the five finalists, we will return to the City Council for approval to accept the award and compete for the larger \$40 million grant. As we have received questions regarding this grant and the application, attached is a copy of the full grant application submitted by the City. If you have any questions, please contact Nate Baird at (562) 570-6618.

PHW:CB

ATTACHMENT – USDOT APPLICATION

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