

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

El Paso County

MINUTE ORDER

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El Paso District

El Paso County (county) has submitted an application for financial assistance in the form of a loan of up to \$4,920,000 from the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) under Transportation Code, Chapter 222, Subchapter D, and Title 43 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 6 (SIB rules). The application satisfies all requirements of the rules, including passage by the county of a resolution authorizing submission of the application to the Texas Department of Transportation (department). The county intends to use the financial assistance to pay for the county's participation in a highway improvement project to construct improvements over approximately 2.3 miles of the Interstate Highway 10 corridor between Airway Boulevard and Viscount Boulevard in the City of El Paso, including ramp reconfigurations and frontage road improvements (project).

The county has proposed a pledge of ad-valorem taxes as security for repayment of the loan.

Section 6.32 of the SIB rules allows for final approval by the commission of any SIB loan in the principal amount of \$10 million or less without first going through the preliminary approval process described in the SIB rules if the financial assistance is to be used for a project for which the department has primary responsibility.

The intended use of the financial assistance conforms to the purposes of the SIB. The present and projected financial condition of the SIB is sufficient to cover the requested financial assistance for the project. Under the SIB rules, the executive director or his designee determined that the requirement to submit any information or data that was not submitted by the county is waived as permitted by the rules either because the information or data is not relevant or the department already possesses the information or data.

In accordance with 43 TAC §6.32(c), the commission finds that: (1) the project is consistent with the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan and the metropolitan transportation plan developed by the applicable metropolitan planning organization; (2) the project is in a Clean Air Act non-attainment area and is consistent with the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, with the conforming plan and Transportation Improvement Program for the MPO in which the project is located, and with the State Implementation Plan; (3) the project will improve the efficiency of the state's transportation systems; (4) the project will expand the availability of funding for transportation projects or reduce direct state costs; and (5) the application shows that the county is likely to have sufficient tax revenues to assure repayment of the financial assistance.

In accordance with 43 TAC §6.41, the executive director has negotiated all the terms of an agreement as necessary to protect the public's safety and to prudently provide for the protection of public funds while furthering the purposes of the SIB.

The executive director or his designee implemented actions authorized and required by the SIB rules for final approval. The executive director affirms that the necessary social, economic, and environmental impact studies have been completed and approved by the department. The executive director recommends that the commission grant final approval of the county's application for financial assistance from the SIB.

In accordance with 43 TAC §6.32(e), the commission finds that providing financial assistance will protect the public's safety and prudently provide for the protection of public funds, while furthering the purposes of the SIB; and that the project will provide for all reasonable and feasible measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate for adverse environmental impacts.

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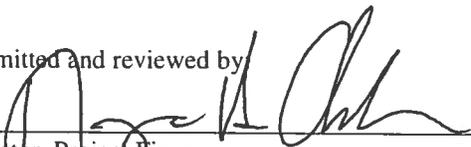
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El Paso District

IT IS THEREFORE DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the application submitted by the county for financial assistance in the form of a loan from the SIB meets the applicable requirements of the SIB rules and, in accordance with those provisions, the commission grants final approval of the county's application for a SIB loan in an amount not to exceed \$4,920,000 for the county's participation in the project.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the executive director or his designee is directed and authorized to enter into a financial assistance agreement with the county which complies with the SIB rules and which contains the following terms:

1. The loan will be repaid over a period of no more than fifteen years at 1.85 percent interest per annum.
2. The county will pledge ad-valorem taxes as security for repayment of the loan.
3. The loan must be fully disbursed within three years of the date of this minute order.
4. As a requirement for closing the loan and for disbursement of SIB funds, the county shall provide a certificate warranting that the proposed security is eligible to be used to repay the loan and that the financial assistance will not violate any of the borrowing or bond commitments the county has in place.
5. No deferral of repayment is authorized.

Submitted and reviewed by

 Director, Project Finance,
 Debt & Strategic Contracts Division

Recommended by:

 Executive Director

115016 AUG 31 '17
 Minute Date
 Number Passed