COUNTY JUDGE

Fort Bend County, Texas

The Honorable KP George
County Judge

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November 1, 2022

Fort Bend County acting by and through the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court fully supports the City of Sugar Land's ("City") application for the U.S Department of Transportation's SMART Grant Program for the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Railroad Monitoring, Communication, and Notification System Project. The County understands that the purpose of the program is to conduct demonstration projects focused on advanced smart technologies and systems in a variety of communities to improve transportation efficiency and safety using technology interventions to solve real-world challenges, build data and technology capacity, and develop expertise in the public sector.

Mobility is the top priority for residents in the City of Sugar Land and is a top priority for residents across Fort Bend County. In response, the City has invested in technology, specifically in ITS infrastructure, to address the City's mobility needs today and propel the City into the future. The US 90A corridor serves approximately 63,000 vehicles on weekdays, and can increase to approximately 70,000 vehicles during the school year. The adjacent Union Pacific Railroad track serves approximately 32 trains every day. With the proposed merger of Canadian Pacific Railway and Kansas City Southern Railway, train traffic is anticipated to increase since US 90A is a major route to the south. The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Railroad Monitoring, Communication, and Notification System Project focuses on upgrading hardware for the City's existing railroad monitoring system, and begins to lay the foundation for connected vehicles to support traffic operations.

The City's current ITS includes a railroad monitoring system that can detect train speed, direction, and length at six locations within the City along the US 90A corridor. The goal of this project is to expand this system to more locations within the City and ultimately to other locations along the US 90A corridor within Fort Bend County. Therefore, the City plans to coordinate with Fort Bend County, Missouri City, Stafford, and Richmond on the project. The project also aims to enhance how the City shares this information with roadway users to improve congestion and emergency response times.

The total estimated cost for the ITS Railroad Monitoring, Communication, and Notification System Project is $2,050,300. The SMART Grant provides an opportunity for the City to continue testing and prototyping equipment to determine the best solution before moving forward with investing in upgrading the system.

With all of these considerations, the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court urges you to favorably consider the City of Sugar Land's application for the SMART Grants Program.

Sincerely,

KP George
County Judge

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