



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Division of Transportation Development
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MEMORANDUM

TO: THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FROM: Rebecca White, Director, Division of Transportation Development
Molly Bly, Program Manager, Revitalizing Main Streets Grant Program
DATE: March 17, 2021
SUBJECT: Revitalizing Main Streets

Purpose

To brief the Commission on plans to use \$30M in new state stimulus funding approved by the state legislature (SB-110).

Action

Staff is seeking Commission support via a Resolution to utilize these dollars by re-launching the Revitalizing Main Streets grant program. This re-launch would incorporate the safety, active transportation, and COVID resiliency components of current grants while applying lessons learned from the past few months of implementation.

Background

Earlier this year, Governor Polis' issued a "Build Back Stronger" budget proposal which included continued funding support for the Revitalizing Main Streets and Safer Main Streets grant programs. In March, the state legislature approved \$30M for these programs. Funding will be allocated to the state highway fund.

Both of these programs are currently being administered by CDOT and have already funded some great projects. However, this new funding provides an opportunity to "relaunch" this program under the common umbrella of Revitalizing Main Streets.

Staff will brief the Commission on the plans for this re-launch, including proposed evaluation criteria, funding amounts, and timelines.

Next Steps

Should Commission support moving forward with this program, staff would plan to provide periodic updates as the program progresses.

Attachments

Powerpoint presentation: Revitalizing Main Streets

Proposed Resolution: *Approval of Department's Implementation of SB-110 (State Stimulus Funding) for the "Revitalizing Main Streets Grant Program"*





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Revitalizing Main Streets March 2021



Funding Overview

- Governor Polis' "Build Back Stronger" budget proposal included continued funding support for the Revitalizing Main Streets and Safer Main Streets grant programs.
 - Revitalizing Main Streets was originally funded with MMOF dollars and to date has awarded 71 grants to communities across the state to help adjust transportation infrastructure in response to COVID.
 - Safer Main Streets was originally funded with SB267 and state/DRCOG STBG dollars. The program was limited to the DRCOG region and focused on reducing bike and pedestrian injuries/fatalities along busy urban arterials.
- Earlier this month, the state legislature approved \$30M for these programs. Funding will be allocated to the state highway fund.



A Re-Launch Opportunity

CDOT proposes using funds to relaunch these grant programs under the single banner of Revitalizing Main Streets.

A minimum of \$8M would be allocated via small grants (\$150k or under) to projects that help communities to implement COVID mitigation measures and make temporary and permanent infrastructure improvements.

- The current program has approximately \$900,000 remaining.
- Overall emphasis and rolling application process would remain the same.

Approximately \$22M would be distributed via large grants (up to \$2M) for projects that improve safety and increase active transportation options.

- Takes basic concept of original Safer Main Streets and expands it statewide while incorporating lessons learned from metro-area program.
- \$1.3M remaining from Safer Main Streets would be rolled into this program (but only available in the DRCOG region).



Grant Breakdown

Large Grants

Capital Projects up to \$2M

\$22 million

Eval Criteria:

- Safety Improvement (30%)
- Active Transportation (10%)
- Readiness (10%)
- Funding Need (10%)
- Diversity of Funding (10%)
- Equity/Economic Impacts (10%)
- Public Support (10%)
- Local Match (10%)

Small Grants

Community Projects up to \$150k

\$8 million

Eval Criteria:

- Public Health Mitigation (COVID-related) (30%)
- Active Transportation (30%)
- Readiness (20%)
- Equity/Economic Impact (10%)
- Public Support (5%)
- Innovation/Scalability (5%)



Next Steps

- In order to honor the intent of this funding to help Colorado's economy, CDOT proposes to move quickly and launch this program this month.
- Staff is prepared to maximize awareness, particularly with local governments, via direct reach-out to transportation stakeholders (TPRs, MPOs, CML, CCI) as well as through media channels.
- New term positions will be key to ensuring efficient delivery of grants.
- Staff will provide regular update briefings on progress; particularly at key milestones.