



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 21, 2021
From: Gwyneth Teves, Community Development Director
To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
City Attorney Paul Webb
Subject: Status of City of Wharton Grant Projects Report No. 2021-03

Below, I have outlined a report on the status of the City of Wharton Grant Projects:

I. GRANT PROJECTS

Infrastructure/Construction :

1. 2021 TxCDBG DRP/MS – Downtown Sidewalk Improvements

City staff is currently working with GrantWorks, Inc. and KSA Engineering on the development of an application of up to \$350,000 for downtown sidewalk renovations/additions. Application due to TDA May 3, 2021.

2. 2020 CDBG-MIT – City of Wharton Harvey Mitigation Project

Application for assessment and rehabilitation and mitigation of the city's 67 miles of wastewater collection lines and 500 manholes to identify the necessary mitigation actions and options for system rehabilitation. 10 lift stations will be mitigated by elevating the foundations/pads, wet wells, and electronic components above the BFE, including any appurtenances that are affected by flood waters. Application under review and expect to hear award April 2021.

3. Santa Fe Channel Outfall Improvements

City staff has been working with USACE for emergency repairs and funding to make repairs to the outfall channel. City staff is currently working with property owners on adjoining sides for easements/acquisitions.

4. CDBG-DR – Infrastructure

Method of Distribution approved by GLO and HUD. City has received an award of \$1,650,172.00 for infrastructure projects related to Hurricane Harvey. Jones & Carter has completed surveys and staff is currently working on easement acquisition and project budget. Anticipate acquisition and construction to begin spring/summer 2021.

5. HMGP – FEMA Shelter/Dome

The City received notification of Award on January 21, 2020. The City Council accepted the award of the funding for Phase I on 02/10/2020. WISD is responsible for all grant activities with the City Staff providing cursory review. WISD has selected Huckabee for architectural services and LTY Engineers & Kimley Horne for

engineering on this project. WISD has received an extension on the deadline of Phase I to August 1, 2021. WISD is working with FEMA and TDEM on several RFI's.

6. 2019-2020 CDBG – South East Ave. Sanitary Sewer Repairs

City has received funding and has finalized agreement and completed kick-off meeting with Tx Dept. of Agriculture. Design in progress and construction to begin summer/fall 2021.

7. City of Wharton Flood Reduction Project – The Lower Colorado River Basin Phase I, Texas WHARTON FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The City of Wharton was notified that the Flood Reduction Project was funded in the early part of 2018. HDR was selected by the City Council on 06/14/19 for acquisition services.

Phase 2 currently under design.

84 parcels are currently designated for Phase I. 30 properties have been fully acquired, 13 are City Owned, Closings pending on 1 property. Negotiations ongoing with 40 properties.

8. TxDOT – Safe Routes to School

The City submitted the Preliminary Application in April 2019. The City was not selected during the 2019-2020 funding. The City was notified that the project will be recommended for the 2020-2021 funding cycle under the Transportation Alternatives Program and has completed RFI and resubmitted the updated application for recommendation to the TxDOT Commission for consideration in April or May 2021

Housing:

9. CDBG-DR – Buyouts/Acquisitions

Method of Distribution approved by GLO and HUD. City has received an award of \$1,693,784.00 for buyout/acquisition projects related to Hurricane Harvey. The guidelines have been approved by the GLO and no public comment was received during the required posting period. Intake meetings continue with property owners and GrantWorks. RFQ has been posted for the Acquisition Services and will be brought to City Council for selection on May 24th.

10. 2016 CDBG-DR – Housing Elevation/Reconstruction

Notification of \$2,000,000 funding was received February 4, 2019. 3 applications have been approved and are in home build selection phase. City issued notice of grant in utility billing, resulting in 12 new inquiries and a new total of 5 applicants, with 1 overall program applicant withdrawal. Construction to be complete on 2 homes May 2021. 3 applicants are pending groundwork (environmental and home inspection) for approval from GLO. Have received approval for a 3rd applicant to have a home rebuilt.

Disaster Recovery (non-infrastructure or housing):

11. TDEM - Coronavirus Relief Funds

Funds made available for reimbursement of medical expenses, public health expenses, payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and

similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. All funds were expended and request for reimbursement has been submitted to TDEM.

12. HMGP – Critical Facility Generators

The City received notification of award by TDEM 02/18/2020. Kick-off meeting conducted with TEDM on August 6th, 2020. Engineering and design are currently underway. Installation anticipated to begin fall 2021.

II. STUDIES:

13. TWDB – Internal Drainage Study and Drainage Improvements

Application submitted under the TWDB Flood Infrastructure Fund to study flood risks inside the City Limits and ETJ and move forward with the most critical projects in Phase 1. The application is being reviewed by TWDB and one RFI has been completed. Anticipated recommendation to the TWDB meeting on late May 20th for funding.

14. City of Wharton, Texas Community Wayfinding Program

City of Wharton working in partnership with the Wharton Downtown Business Association (WDBA), Wharton Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), and the Wharton Chamber of Commerce to complete a wayfinding study. Logo design has been finalized and adopted by the City Council and city staff has begun logo rollout and implementation and proposed wayfinding signage designs are currently in final stages of review with proposed implementation plan. Plans are anticipated to go before Council in April of 2021.

III. OTHER PROJECTS & EVENTS:

15. AARP Grant Applications 2021

City Staff has submitted grant applications to the 2021 AARP funding round for fitness stations at Santa Fe Trail, new/improved and art-walk crossings along the Santa Fe Trail, and for a mini-park with murals adjacent to City Hall. Grant application responses are expected in June of 2021.

16. City of Wharton “Discover Wharton” Community Marketing Campaign

City has developed “Discover Wharton” community marketing campaign in response to “Tourism Assessment” completed in Spring of 2020 by Wharton Downtown Business Association (WDBA) and approved for incorporation into Comprehensive Plan by City Council at Council meeting on May 11th, 2020. The marketing campaign went live in January of 2021 with the release of monthly digital billboard designs and in use for community events.

17. Guffey Park Improvements

City Council approved Community Development Dept. to retain David Bucek as architect to design proposed improvements to Guffey Park in Council Meeting held on August 10th, 2020. Preliminary design and budget being finalized, and construction planned for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.