



## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** November 17, 2021  
**From:** Gwyneth Teves, Community Development Director  
**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers  
Paul Webb, City Attorney  
**Subject:** Status of City of Wharton Grant Projects Report No. 2021-10

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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 in conjunction with GrantWorks, Inc. and KSA Engineering submitted an application of up to \$350,000 for downtown sidewalk renovations/additions. Preliminary scoring is out on the applications. The City of Wharton was notified that the application for this project was awarded on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**2. 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 acquiring needed property and USACE will be submitting for Construction Bid as soon as acquisition has begun finalization.

**3. 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. Acquisition is currently ongoing. Anticipate construction to begin fall/winter 2021.

**4. HMGP – FEMA Shelter/Dome**

WISD Minutes from August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, show that the board approved cancellation of the Wharton ISD Community Safe Room Project (HMGP 4332-057) and authorized the Superintendent to take all actions and terminate all agreements as necessary to effectuate cancellation. City staff has not received any communications from WISD at this time on this action.

**5. 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 fall/winter

2021.

**6. 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.

Acquisitions are still proceeding. All current ED has been completed with DTRG. 1 ED is pending with Winstead.

**7. TxDOT – Safe Routes to School**

The City staff was notified of award for this project April 30, 2021. City staff is currently procuring the administration and engineering services. Kickoff meeting with TxDOT occurred June 29<sup>th</sup>. City staff and TxDOT executing Advanced Funding Agreement for the project.

**Housing:**

**8. 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. Acquisition is under process with HDR, who was selected by City Council.

**9. 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 2 overall program applicant withdrawals. Construction completed on 2 homes May 2021 with 1 to begin December 2021. City staff received a 1-year extension on the grant funding in order to complete construction and allow any additional possible applicants to expend the funds. At the close of the current application period we are currently processing 40 new applications.

**Disaster Recovery (non-infrastructure or housing):**

**10. HMGP – Critical Facility Generators**

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

**11. 2021 American Rescue Plan - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds**

Local governments will receive funds in two tranches, with 50% provided beginning in May 2021 and the balance delivered approximately 12 months later. States that have experienced a net increase in the unemployment rate of more than 2 percentage points from February 2020 to the latest available data as of the date of certification will

receive their full allocation of funds in a single payment; other states will receive funds in two equal tranches. Governments of U.S. territories will receive a single payment. Tribal governments will receive two payments, with the first payment available in May and the second payment, based on employment data, to be delivered in June 2021.

## **II. STUDIES:**

### **12. 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The City of Wharton entered into an MOU with Wharton County, City of El Campo and City of East Bernard to complete a multi-jurisdictional update to the current Hazard mitigation Plan that is required to be updated every 5 years as a FEMA requirement. The last plan was adopted in November 2016 and the plan must be updated and maintained to remain in good standing for many grant programs. The city staff as well as staff from each jurisdiction are coordinating through a steering committee to complete the update for submission to FEMA for approval. Draft plan submitted to TDEM & FEMA for final review September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and have completed 1 request for information from TDEM. Once approved by FEMA the plan will be presented to each jurisdiction for adoption.

### **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. The project was approved by TWDB on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, for funding. City staff is working with TWDB on the contract and beginning implementation.

## **III. OTHER PROJECTS & EVENTS:**