

Staff Memorandum



To: Mark Funkey, City Administrator
From: Chad Bunger, AICP, CFM Director of Development Services
Date: January 29, 2025
Re: Update on the South Hastings Infrastructure Grant Application

City staff has been diligently working to create a significant planning grant to study and provide project recommendations to improve transportation safety and connectivity for residents and businesses of South Hastings.

The grant was originally announced by the Biden Administration's Department of Transportation as the Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE). After work hours on Friday, January 24th, the Trump Administration issued an amendment to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) that changed the name of the grant to Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) and substantially changed the program goals and objectives, definitions, a number of merit criteria, and funding amount available. The Department of Transportation provided a redline version of the NOFO to track the changes made (attached).

These changes were discovered on Tuesday, as the finishing touches of the grant application were made under the original NOFO. Staff quickly pivoted to update the City's application to respond to the new grant merit criteria. Staff worked through a large portion of their evening and morning to complete the needed changes ahead of the grant deadline on January 30th.

Staff feel that Hastings has unique attributes and factors that match the program goals, objectives, and merit criteria outlined in the RAISE grant. A number of these merit criteria were removed from the BUILD NOFO in response to one of the Trump Administration's Executive Orders last week. Although the staff is extremely proud of the revised grant application that has been completed (attached), the revised merit criteria have become more generalized, and the City may have lost some unique elements that created a stronger application under the original NOFO. Regardless, we are excited about the opportunity and feel that the revised application is well-written, meets the required merit criteria, and has a great chance of being funded.

It should be noted that the amount of funding available has been set at \$150 million, slightly less than the remaining allocated funding of \$180 million. The grant award announcement should be no later than June 28, 2025.

Thank you for your support in this grant application.

