

FISCAL YEAR 2009 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE -- REP. Michael Burgess (TX-26)

I. PROJECT BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

1. Please provide a formal name for this project:
City of Denton – Denton Hickory Street Corridor
2. Please describe the project and its purpose:
The requested funding will be used to upgrade Hickory Street between the Denton Downtown Intermodal Transit Facility, historic Courthouse Square and the University of North Texas.
3. Please outline the project plan, including the finance plan:
The total project cost is \$875,000; the City of Denton will provide a local match of \$175,000.

II. BENEFIT TO THE 26th DISTRICT AND/OR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Please explain how this project will improve life, the economy or the general welfare of the 26th District and/or the country at-large. Please be specific (i.e. outline number of jobs created, savings to economy or taxpayers, improve national security):
The Hickory Street Corridor Project will improve mobility along a key corridor in central Denton, providing a safe and attractive link for motorists, bicyclists, pedestrian and transit riders between the planned Downtown Denton Rail Station & Intermodal Transit Facility, historic Courthouse Square and the University of North Texas. The project is vital to ensuring the success of the Denton County Transit Authority commuter rail line and to its potential to offer travelers, especially students, an alternative to I-35E between Dallas and Denton. In addition, plans for the project have already spurred significant economic development, including a major catalyst project in Downtown Denton that will replace a vacant lot with 130 residential units and 50,000 square feet of commercial and retail space.
2. Please explain why this project should be considered a priority:
The project will help meet local regional and mobility goals, will help relieve congestion on I-35E and will support the redevelopment of downtown commercial areas, creating jobs. It will also help the region meet federal clean air goals.

III. REQUEST

1. Amount of money you are requesting:
\$700,000
2. Agency from which you are requesting funds:
Federal Highway Administration
3. Account from which you are requesting funds:
Transportation, Community & Systems Preservation/Surface Transportation Projects

City of Denton – Hickory Street Corridor

IV. FUNDING HISTORY

1. What is the total project cost and can you provide a federal-state/local-other funding breakdown?
The total project cost is \$875,000 - \$700,000 federal (80%) and \$175,000 City of Denton (20%).
2. Has the project ever received federal funds before? If so, please elaborate.
No.
3. Has the project received state, local or private funds before? If so, please elaborate.
No.
4. Can you demonstrate a commitment for future funds from state, local, or private sectors? If so, please elaborate to the extent possible.
Yes, the City of Denton is committed to funding this project.
5. How do you intend to spend federal funds for this project (operating, construction, studies, equipment purchase, salaries, other)?
The requested federal funds will be used to construct planned improvements to Hickory Street between Downtown Denton and the University of North Texas.
6. Does the project request stem from a currently-funded federal program (i.e., an already existing congressional authorization)? If so, please explain and be as specific as possible.
The project is eligible for funding under SAFETEA-LU (PL 109-59).

V. PROJECT HISTORY

1. Please briefly explain the level of support for the project in the local and any other community (if letters of support exist, please attach to this form).
The project enjoys widespread support and letters of support will be provided.
2. Has the project encountered any objections within the local or other interested communities? If so, please describe (if letters or official records exist noting objections to the project, please attach to this form).
No.
3. Please briefly explain the current stage and expected timeline of the project in a great a detail as possible.
The project is included in the DTO Master Plan and can proceed to construction in FY 2009 if fully funded.

City of Denton – Hickory Street Corridor

VI. CONTACTS

1. Who is the primary point of contact for the request?
John Cabrales, City of Denton Public Information/Government Relations Office
2. Contact information (telephone and e-mail):
940-349-8509
john.cabrales@cityofdenton.com
3. Mailing address of entity that would receive the funding?
City of Denton
215 East McKinney
Denton TX 76201

VII. TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

1. How much of this request can be spent in fiscal year 2009?
The entire request can be spent in FY 2009.
2. If this is a highway, transit, rail, or aviation request, did you check eligibility with the state DOT, FTA, FRA, or FAA?
Yes.
If yes, did the agency indicate the project is eligible under the account requested?
Yes.
3. If this is an FHWA request, is the project considered by the state and/or regional transportation officials as critical to their needs?
Yes, the project is a priority for regional and local officials and is included in the metropolitan area's long-range plan.
4. If a highway request, is the project on the state's transportation improvement plan?
No.

PRIORITY PROJECT REQUEST CRITERIA

CERTIFICATION:

I, Perry McNeill, ATTEST THAT THIS PROJECT REQUEST MADE ON BEHALF OF the City of Denton MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. All appropriations requests must be a priority for the 26th District and/or the country-at large as defined as enhancing life, liberty, or the general welfare.
2. All requests must be a proper and wise use of federal taxpayer dollars and must be justified as such. Projects that include a commitment to match federal funds will receive priority consideration.
3. All requests will be immediately posted on the website and supporting documentation made available to press outlets and interested individuals.

City of Denton – Hickory Street Corridor

4. None of the funding requested will be used for a building, program, or project that has been named for Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. No request will be made that Congressman Burgess or his spouse has any financial interest.
5. All requests shall be made in accordance with House of Representatives rules, and within Appropriations Committee deadlines. No funding request will be submitted after the deadline established by the Committee

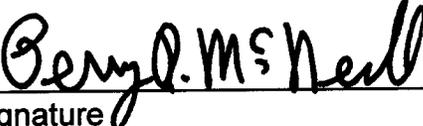
Name of person certifying: **Perry McNeill**

Title of person certifying: **Mayor of Denton**

Project name as it will appear in the bill: **Denton Hickory Street Corridor**

Legal name of entity making request: **City of Denton, Texas**

Address: **215 East McKinney, Denton, Texas 76201**


Signature

3-7-08
Date