

**CITY OF GAUTIER
MEMORANDUM**

To: Samantha Abell, City Manager
From: Patty Huffman, Grants and Projects Manager
Through: Eric Meyer, Director of Economic Development and Planning
Date: May 21, 2013
Subject: Request to submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program funding

REQUEST:

The Economic Development and Planning Department requests City Council authorization for the submission of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for funding through the 2013 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program.

BACKGROUND:

The TIGER Discretionary Grant program provides a unique opportunity for the U.S. Department of Transportation to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve critical national objectives. DOT is authorized to award \$473.847 million in TIGER Discretionary Grants pursuant to the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act. Each project must be multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional or otherwise challenging to fund through existing programs. The TIGER program enables DOT to use a rigorous process to select projects with exceptional benefits, explore ways to deliver projects faster and save on construction costs, and make investments in our Nation's infrastructure that make communities more livable and sustainable. As with previous rounds of TIGER, funds for the FY 2013 TIGER program are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area or a region. The statutory timeframe for DOT to obligate funds under this round of TIGER Discretionary Grants is the shortest of all of the rounds to date. In order to meet this deadline, applications must demonstrate that the project can meet all local, State, and federal requirements by June 30, 2014, in order for DOT to obligate funding in advance of September 30, 2014. Each application must include a detailed statement of work, detailed project schedule, and detailed project budget. Due to the short timeframe for obligation, project readiness and the risk of delays will be treated as primary selection criteria in DOT's evaluation process.

DISCUSSION:

A grant application is proposed for up to \$12 million for the following transportation infrastructure improvements:

- A new east-west road connecting Beasley Rd. to Gautier-Vancleave Rd.;
- A new north-south road extending Dolphin Drive to connect with the new east-west road south of Gautier High School;
- An additional east-west street connecting Beasley Rd. to the Dolphin Drive extension;
- An additional north-south street connecting the interior east-west road to William Payne Adams Boulevard; and
- A perimeter road, looping from the Dolphin Rd extension to Singing River Boulevard, delineating a cultural and recreational area in the southeast quadrant of the Town Center area.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Economic Development and Planning Department staff recommends that City Council authorize submission of a grant application for a TIGER grant before the June 3, 2013 deadline.

City Council may:

1. Authorize submission of an application for grant funding as described above; or
2. Authorize submission of a grant application with changes; or
3. Disapprove submission of a grant application.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

Motion was made by Mayor Fortenberry to make the 2% tax levy a poll vote on June 4th General Election Ballot due to low voter turnout in the Primary Election. This would give the City more time to advertise in August. Motion was seconded by Councilman Macfarland and unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Mayor Fortenberry, seconded by Councilman Macfarland and unanimously carried to adjourn until June 4, 2013 at 5:30 PM.

APPROVED BY:

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

Submitted for approval of the Mayor and Council of the City of Gautier, Mississippi at the meeting of June 4, 2013.