

SULTAN CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Date: October 8, 2009

Agenda Item #: C-12

SUBJECT: GMA Transportation Planning Grant

CONTACT PERSON: Donna Murphy Grants and Economic Development Coordinator



SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The issue before the City Council is to authorize Mayor Eslick to direct staff to apply for a GMA Energy Efficiency through Transportation Planning (EETP) Grant.

Washington State Department of Commerce is offering a GMA Transportation Planning Grant for up to \$75,000.

Staff evaluated the application criteria and determined an application for integrated planning such as:

Revisions to regional transportation plans, city or county land use or transportation elements that support the comprehensive plan elements.

Development of comprehensive plan components addressing compact town or neighborhood centers, growth and transportation-efficiency centers.

Development of development regulations which may promote energy efficient development, such as subdivision regulations, street standards, zoning or other related regulations.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

There is no match requirement for this grant program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Motion: the City Council authorize Mayor Eslick to direct staff to apply to Washington State Department of Commerce for a GMA Transportation Planning Grant.

ATTACHMENT:

Grant Overview

Copies to Bao + Deborah



Department of Commerce

Innovation is in our nature.

Energy Efficiency through Transportation Planning (EETP) Grants Growth Management Services

Background

The Energy Efficiency through Transportation Planning (EETP) is a sub-grant created by the Washington State Department of Commerce with formula funds the state is receiving from the federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. The focus of the EETP grants is to reduce transportation-related energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and vehicle miles traveled.

Timelines

Thursday, September 24th, 2009 – EETP application guidelines and application form are available on the Department of Commerce Web site www.commerce.wa.gov – under Recovery at Commerce.

October 7th, 1:00 p.m. – Informational webinar. See Commerce Web site to register.

October 26th, 2009 (Monday) 5:00 p.m. – Deadline to submit EETP applications to Commerce.

February 1, 2010 - April 30, 2012 – Time frame for proposed projects.

Eligible Activities

Eligible activities may include but are not limited to:

1. Local or local/regional integrated planning activities such as revisions to regional transportation plans, city or county land use or transportation elements, and/or other supporting comprehensive plan elements that reduce VMT and transportation related greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Development of comprehensive plan components addressing compact town or neighborhood centers, station-area plans, transit-oriented development, growth and transportation efficiency centers, school siting, or co-location of public facilities.
3. Incentive programs to reduce commutes by single occupant vehicles.
4. Transportation demand management programs such as employee flex time, telework, satellite work centers, or other programs to reduce commutes by single occupancy vehicles.
5. Development of, or the review and update of, development regulations which may promote energy efficient development, such as subdivision regulations, public works standards including complete street standards, streetscape and urban design guidelines, zoning, parking reductions, multimodal transportation concurrency mechanisms, or other related regulations.
6. Improvements in operation and system efficiency of the transportation system such as synchronization of traffic signals.

Eligible Entities and Funding Amounts

A total of approximately \$770,000 will be available for distribution through competitive grants. Maximum grant amounts will be \$75,000 for a single city or county, and \$150,000 for a collaborative proposal. All cities and counties in the state, regardless of size and whether they received direct EECBG formula funds, will be eligible to apply for EETP grants. Partner entities may include MPOs, RTPOs, EDCs, COGs, and other special purpose governments, but the lead agency must be a city or a county.

Recovery Act Requirements

Federal EECBG grant guidelines require that activities funded under this grant:

- Maximize fossil fuel use reductions and total energy use reductions;
- Provide for improved coordination of energy-related policies and programs to maximize the impact of the program on long-term priorities;
- Are cost-effective, and leverage state, local and federal funds; and
- Yield continuous benefits over time, including economic benefits and improved environmental and health indicators associated with the reduction of fossil fuel emissions.

In addition, the following requirements will apply to all grants:

- Buy American – Use of iron, steel and manufactured goods;
- Davis-Bacon Act wage rates;
- Environmental and cultural review;
- Listing Recovery Act jobs with the Employment Security Department;
- Attending Commerce training on Recovery Act requirements ; and
- Quarterly reporting on progress and metrics such as jobs created, emissions reduced, and energy saved.

About the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

The EECBG program was originally authorized and signed into federal law on December 19, 2007, and was funded through the U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) of 2009. The purpose of EECBG program is to provide funds to develop and implement projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions. See www.eecbg.energy.gov/about/default.html. The Washington State Department of Commerce will receive \$10,645,000 in EECBG formula funds. In addition to the EETP grant program, these funds will be used to:

1. Provide \$6.4 million in a state-administered EECBG program for competitive grants to small cities with fewer than 35,000 in population, and small counties with fewer than 200,000 in population.
2. Provide \$750,000 to expand the Resource Conservation Manager (RCM) program of the Washington State University (WSU) Extension Energy Program. See the WSU fact sheet on the RCM program at www.energy.wsu.edu/projects/rem/.
3. Support the administration of the EECBG program.

Contact

Anne Fritzel, Senior Planner, Growth Management Services
Tel: 360.725.3064 E-mail: Anne.Fritzel@commerce.wa.gov