

MEMO

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee of City Council
Date: April 15, 2014
From: Dan Baechtold, Transportation Planner
Via: Gary Jackson, City Manager
Subject: Proposed Grant Application for TIGER Funds

Summary: Staff wishes to apply for a TIGER VI Transportation Capital Grant to implement critical multi-modal projects in the River Arts District and East of the Riverway areas.

Review:

- USDOT released a notice of funding availability on March 3, 2014 for the next round of TIGER (Transportation Improvements Generating Economic Recovery) funds. \$565 Million will be allocated for construction projects; \$35 Million for planning projects. Award minimum is \$10 million.
- Dan Baechtold will act as Project Manager for the application submittal to USDOT; Cathy Ball will act as Project Director.
- Project Proposal: \$10-20 million request to help fund the implementation of a multi-modal transportation network in East of the Riverway, with the RADTIP as the network spine and the primary element. Other transportation elements could include the Clingman Forest Greenway, the Town Branch Greenway, the French Broad River Greenway/ Bicycle and Pedestrian Connector (Duke property donation), the Livingston Street Complete Street Improvements, and Payne's Way extension as arteries that safely and sustainably connect people to jobs, education, housing, and transportation choices.
- An interdisciplinary staff team is in the process of refining the scope of transportation elements that will be included. The application will highlight many of the related projects, initiatives and partnerships along the Riverfront and in the East of the Riverway area - projects such as the rehabilitation of 14 Riverside Drive, constructed wetlands, and stormwater improvements that are crucial to the increasing the livability of the neighborhoods in concert with the overall transportation project.
- Staff seeks Council consideration to authorize City Manager to apply for TIGER VI funds at the April 22, 2014 Council meeting.
- Letters of support from the City of Asheville's partners are needed as part of a strong application; they will need to be created and solicited before Council considers authorization of the application.
- Application is due April 28, 2014.

Recommendation:

- Staff requests questions and feedback from PED that can inform staff's presentation to Council on April 22nd