

# **FY26 Community Project Funding (CPF) Requests**

## **REQUEST FORM**

### **Requesting Organization Info**

#### **Point of Contact for Request:**

**Name:** Omar Martinez

**Title:** Assistant Director of Legislative Affairs

**Phone #:** 915-479-0341

**Email Address:** MartinezOL@elpasotexas.gov

**Name of Requesting Organization/Entity:** City of El Paso

#### **Type of Entity:**

- ❖ State, **Local**, or Tribal Government
- ❖ Public Entity
- ❖ 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

**Address of Organization:** 300 N. Campbell, El Paso, Texas 79901

**Website:** www.elpasotexas.gov

### **Project Information**

**Project Name/Title:** I-10 Deck Plaza Project

**Postal Address of Project:** Interstate Highway 10 Downtown, El Paso, TX 79901

**Fed Agency:** U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

**Account:** FHWA Highway Infrastructure Projects

**Project Amount Requested:** \$5,000,000

**Total Project Cost:** \$5,000,000

**Description and Purpose of Funding– up to 1,000 words (Be sure to include why this is a good use of tax payer dollars):**

**Project Summary:** The City of El Paso is requesting \$5,000,000 from the FY26 Community Project Funding program for the I-10 Deck Plaza Project (Project). The Project is supported by multiple local, state, and Mexican public agencies and stakeholders and private sector partners (see community support attachment).

**Scope of Work:** Funding will be utilized for on-system (TxDOT) structural improvements for the I-10 Deck Plaza including retaining walls, support beams, fire safety, and utilities over a 6-block (0.38 miles) length of Interstate Highway 10 (I-10) in Downtown El Paso, Texas.

**FHWA On-System / Off-System Analysis:** The I-10 Deck Plaza is an on-system project and is included in the [RMS2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan \(2022\) \(MTP\)](#) (Page 8-6).

**Funding Experience:** The City of El Paso has a long history of undertaking feasibility studies and design, construction of transportation capital improvements projects, including improvements made to international ports of entry. The City of El Paso is currently administering \$120+ million in federal discretionary grant projects and has received more than \$1 billion in grant funding from 2017 – 2024. The City of El Paso has experience managing appropriation funds submitted under the FHWA account.

**Project Readiness:**

In 2024, the City of El Paso completed 30% feasibility design documents with a grant from the USDOT FY21 RAISE program (Award No. 693JJ32340222). The estimated Project duration is 24 months with funding allocated within 12 months (or as required by FY26 CPF).

6 additional attachments are being submitted with this application.

**Budget and Funding Justification:** The City of El Paso will provide a 15% match and the Deck Plaza Foundation will provide a 5% match for the FHWA appropriation. There are no pre-award costs included in this project budget. The appropriation will be executed via an Advanced Funding Agreement with TxDOT as a passthrough. No delays are foreseen.

There are currently very limited federal funding opportunities intended construct infrastructure on highway decks. The City of El Paso has engaged USDOT, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), and the North American Development Bank (NADB) for funding to design and construct this project in El Paso. To date, the City of El Paso has only achieved limited success. Specifically, the City of El Paso, El Paso MPO, and Paso del Norte Community Foundation have submitted grant applications for the design and construction of the Deck Plaza and have received Highly Recommended scoring criteria by FHWA but were ultimately not selected for funding in FY23 and FY24.

**Why Should this Request be Considered a Priority for the People of El Paso or Texas' 16th Congressional District?**

The Project will physically reconnect Downtown and Uptown El Paso, de-emphasize the current vehicular-centric environment, and facilitate all modes of travel, especially for pedestrians, cyclists, and public transit users. Transportation challenges impacting the I-10 Downtown corridor include traffic growth, deficient roadway infrastructure, safety concerns, and the lack of multimodal mobility options, which limit the ability of residents to access areas where they live, work, heal, learn, play, and pray.

**The Deck Plaza is a community-led complement to the TxDOT Downtown10 Project, not a contributor to the highway expansion.** The Deck Plaza will address incomplete segments of streets crossing I-10 where pedestrians encounter unsafe environments, often as a result from lacking pedestrian amenities. Wide, high-speed, one-way streets, and with buildings that do not front the street are common.

The Project can address transportation needs while honoring a historical pedestrian system of green spaces and plazas prior to the construction of I-10 and recreating a sense of community in downtown and uptown El Paso.

**Community Participation and Engagement:** The City of El Paso and Paso del Norte Community Foundation engaged in multiple dedicated community outreach efforts in support of the I-10 Deck Plaza project. The I-10 Deck Plaza Planning Study (included in Supporting Documents) includes a planning initiative where public comments can be viewed at a dedicated website. Amenities and green spaces are presented in detail through dozens of public events and venues: <https://www.downtowndeckplaza.org/feedback>.

**What is the Timeline of Completion for this Project and Will This Project Require Additional Federal Funding in Future Fiscal Years?**

6/1/2026 – 6/1/2028 - The City of El Paso can complete the Project within 1 year of funding authorization. Funding can be allocated immediately upon receiving notice of funding authorization.

The City of El Paso will likely request additional federal funding for the project via USDOT discretionary grant programs.

**Is This a New or Ongoing Project?** New

**If the Appropriations Committee is Not Able to Provide the Full Amount of Funding Requested, Can This Project Start in a Limited Capacity?** Yes

**If this Project Has Received Any Funding in the Past, From Either a Public or Private Source, Please Detail That Here:** In 2024, the City of El Paso completed 30% feasibility design documents with a grant from the USDOT FY21 RAISE program (Award No. 693JJ32340222). The proposed project is a continuation of this work.

**If this Project Has Received Any Funding in the Past, From Either a Public or Private Source, Please Detail That Here:** Not applicable

**If This Project Requires a Non-Federal Cost-Share, Please Indicate That Here And Explain How You Can Demonstrate That The Non-Federal Share Will Be Met:** The City of El Paso will contribute a 15% non-federal share as authorized by a City Council Resolution that will be presented on May 13, 2025. 5% of the non-federal share will be contributed by the Deck Plaza Foundation (see attached letters).

**You Understand That You Must Be Able to Demonstrate that the Request Has Community Support, and Submit Proof of Such Support?** -Yes

**Does the Requesting Entity Plan to Make Grants to Other Entities From the Funds Provided and If So, To Which Entities?** Not applicable

**The Project Has a Federal Nexus Because the Funding Provided is for Purposes Authorized By** \_\_\_\_\_.

The Project is eligible under 23 USC 133(b) (Surface Transportation Block Grant Program)

The Project is consistent with program requirements under the USDOT Highway Infrastructure Projects authorization outlined in Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) §11109; 23 U.S.C. 133, which carries forward all pre-FAST Act Eligible Activities and adds the following:

Projects to enhance travel and tourism [23 U.S.C. 133(b)(24)];

**Please List All Members of The House and Senate Who Are Receiving This Request:**

Congresswoman Veronica Escobar

**If Submitting Multiple Requests, Please Rank This Request in Terms Of Priority: 2**

**Documentation of Community Support:** Submitted attachments

**Does The Project Require An Environmental Review? If So, What Is The Status And/Or Outcome Of The Review Under The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?**

The Project falls within the area of interest covered by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) developed by TxDOT for the Downtown 10 Project CSJ 2121-02-186. The City of El Paso will utilize the TxDOT EIS and Record of Decision and expects a Categorical Exclusion determination.

**Where Is The Project In The Construction Process?**

Construction has not started.

**Does The Project Intend To Apply For Any DOT Discretionary Programs Before Proceeding? If Yes, Will The Project Sponsor Still Proceed If Not Selected?**

The Project cannot proceed without selection.

**Provide A History Of Federal Funding For The Project, If Any. Include Formula Funds And Any Discretionary Grants.**

In 2024, the City of El Paso completed 30% feasibility design documents with a grant from the USDOT FY21 RAISE program (Award No. 693JJ32340222). The proposed project is a continuation of this work.

**Is the project on a STIP or a TIP? If yes, please provide a link to the plan.**

No. The I-10 Deck Plaza is an on-system project and is included in the [RMS2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan \(2022\) \(MTP\)](#) (Page 8-6).

**Please provide the STIP or TIP ID Number and specify which plan the ID Number comes from.**

Not applicable.