

MEMORANDUM

Office of the City Manager



DATE: April 10, 2023

TO: Mayor and Council

THROUGH: Ashwini Kantak, Acting City Manager *Ashwini Kantak*

FROM: Matt Cano, Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT: 2023 Federal and State Funding Requests

This Information Memorandum provides the Mayor and City Council with a summary of requests that staff has made to the City of Milpitas' Federal and State elected representatives for one-time project funding as part of the current Federal and State budget process.

Background

As part of the Federal and State Government's annual budget processes, the City of Milpitas' elected Federal and State representatives often initiate a request for "Community Projects." This process allows cities such as Milpitas to request one-time funding for projects and/or programs outside of the normal grant-seeking process. Last year, the City of Milpitas received funding through this process for the following projects and programs:

- Carbon Neutral Homes Incentive Program (\$3 million from Representative Ro Khanna's Office)
- Homelessness Prevention and Unhoused Services (\$1.5M from Assemblymember Alex Lee)
- Bike Lanes Facility Enhancement Project (\$1 million from Assemblymember Alex Lee)

In February and March 2023, Senator Alex Padilla, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and Representative Ro Khanna issued a request for projects. Each of the federally elected officials provided the City of Milpitas with a different due date for submittals, ranging from March 3rd (Padilla) to March 17th (Khanna). At the State level, it is still unclear as to whether there will be a "call for projects" this year given the State budget deficit. However, as described further below, staff and our consultants have provided a project priority list to Senator Aisha Wahab and Assemblymember Alex Lee's offices in case State funding does become available.

Analysis

Staff was provided with a very tight turnaround time to submit requests. Given this tight timeline, staff reviewed and consulted the following resources in order to determine the projects that could have the best opportunity to receive funding:

- Review of the City Council Adopted 2023-2027 Capital Improvement program to identify City Council approved projects with insufficient funding, with a focus on construction projects that are "shovel ready;"
- Review of prior City Council priority workplan items and direction;
- Review of underfunded projects or programs which the City has invested in that are in need of additional funding;
- Consultation with the City of Milpitas' Federal and State legislative advocacy consultants;

- Phone calls with staff members of elected officials;
- Review of the guidelines sent by the elected officials regarding projects eligible to receive funding.

After a careful review of the potential projects and programs combined with feedback from the staff members of elected officials and the City's legislative advocacy consultants, staff has submitted the following projects to our elected officials for consideration.

1. **Main Street Lighting Project:** The Milpitas Gateway-Main Street Specific Plan will shape the continued transformation of an auto-oriented area to a vibrant, mixed-use, and more pedestrian-oriented community that includes housing, retail, entertainment, commercial and park spaces, and a safe and attractive pedestrian and bicycle network. Further planning information can be found here: <https://www.milpitasmainstreet.org>. A key shovel ready priority project in this area for the City to continue spurring economic development is the Main Street lighting project. This project consists of design and construction of streetlights and signal improvements along Main Street from Carlo to Great Mall Parkway and is estimated at \$7.8 million. The project will be built in three phases. Design is completed for the first phase (Carlo to Corning) and the construction is estimated at \$2.4 million. The City requested support for the construction funding (\$2.4 million) for this first phase of the project.
2. **Milpitas SMART:** In alignment with the City of Milpitas's adopted Climate Action Plan ([Milpitas-CAP-Final-Addm.pdf](https://www.milpitasmainstreet.org)), this program is an app-based local transit service that provides convenient, affordable and on-demand connections to the Great Mall, City Hall, Milpitas Transit Center and VTA light rail stops. Further information can be found here: <https://www.milpitas.gov/smart>. Current funding allows operations through calendar year 2023. Additional funding of up to \$1.6 million would enable an extension of this program and allow time to develop a sustainable funding model for this ongoing program.
3. **Milpitas Urban Search & Rescue:** In 2000, the Milpitas Fire Department acquired a heavy rescue apparatus (USAR-86). The primary mission of a heavy rescue apparatus is to provide the Fire Department with a multifunction apparatus that has the ability to carry and rapidly deploy, the thousands of pounds of heavy rescue equipment required to manage the myriad of Special Operations and Technical Rescue Incidents that an urban "all hazards" fire department can be expected to respond to. The current equipment is at the end of its useful life. The City has allocated nearly \$400,000 for this equipment. The City requested support for all or a portion of the remaining funding (\$1.2 million) necessary to purchase the new equipment.
4. **Milpitas Public Safety Microgrid:** In alignment with the City of Milpitas' adopted Climate Action Plan, the Public Safety Microgrid Project installs a combined solar-microgrid-battery system at the facility that houses the City's Police Station, 911 Call Center, Public Works, and Information Technology Departments. This will ensure that these facilities can function during power shutdowns/outages and reduce Green House Gas emissions on a daily basis. The City requested support for all or a portion of the \$3.1 million necessary for implementation of this project.
5. **Cardoza Park Softball Fields:** The Milpitas North Valley Police Athletic League Softball League, formerly known as Milpitas North Valley Bobby Sox, has offered inclusive softball activities for 400 Milpitas youth annually for 24 years focusing on giving young girls in our community the confidence and leadership skills to succeed in life, while also being active and healthy using the fundamentals of athletics. For most of the program's life, it was held at the Russell Middle School Bobby Sox fields, owned by the Milpitas Unified School District (MUSD). In 2021, MUSD started to renovate the Russell Middle School fields for multi-use play with a track, soccer field, and small

softball field. To support the continuation of softball league activities, the City temporarily transitioned the PAL Softball Program to Dixon Landing Park Sports fields. Aside from the youth players and their families, thousands of interleague players and spectators stretching from San Lorenzo to the Central Valley, visit Milpitas for team play, scrimmages, and tournaments.

In December 2021, the City Council approved the City's Parks Master Plan, which provides for four softball fields to ensure a permanent home for Milpitas softball activities. As part of the FY 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Program, the City Council has allocated \$800,000 towards project design. Remaining costs are estimated at \$7 million. The City requested support for all or a portion of the estimated remaining cost.

Based upon consultation with the staff members of some of the elected officials as well as the City of Milpitas' Federal and State advocacy consultants, not all projects were submitted to every elected official. The below table provides a summary of which projects or programs were submitted to each elected official for consideration of funding:

Project or Program	United States Senator Dianne Feinstein	United States Senator Alex Padilla	United States Representative Ro Khanna	State Senator Aisha Wahab and State Assemblymember Alex Lee
Main Street Lighting project			X	X
Milpitas SMART			X	X
Milpitas Urban Search and Rescue	X	X	X	X
Milpitas Public Safety Microgrid	X	X	X	X
Cardoza Park Softball Fields				X

Next Steps

The timeline for decisions on these funding allocations is unknown at this time. Staff will keep the Mayor and City Council informed of any significant progress.