

Carbon Reduction Program Funding Awards – September 21, 2023

Carbon Reduction Program – 2023 Call for Proposals

MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Project Evaluation – June 1, 2023

MPO Policy Board Allocation of Funds – September 21, 2023

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed by the U.S. Congress in 2021 established the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), which provides funds for projects designed to reduce transportation emissions, defined as carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from on-road highway sources.

On September 21, 2023, the Waco MPO Policy Board awarded just over \$2.1 million in federal funds to implement carbon reduction strategies in the greater Waco area and McLennan County. Approximately \$1,356,000 in federal CRP funds are allocated for five carbon reduction strategies proposed by local project sponsors (Map 1) that promote pedestrian, bicycle and micro transit use, promote biological carbon sequestration, and reduce vehicular speeding.

- Local funds as match = \$434,785
- Total estimated costs = \$1,790,811

The remainder of the \$2.1 million will fund the advancement of sections of three projects from the Waco MPO Active Transportation Plan (Map 2). These strategies present an opportunity for the implementation of low-cost, high-impact pedestrian and bicycle projects which reduce transportation emissions while benefiting local communities.

Project details follow. Design and engineering of the projects is underway.

Local Agency Submittals Ranked

PRIORITY #1

MPO ID: CR-001 (FY 2024)

Submitting Member: City of Waco

Project Title: Negative Emission Tree Planting (MKT Rails to Trails)

Project Location: MKT Rails to Trail Project from Dallas Avenue to FM 933 (Gholson Rd)

Federal/State Funds Requested for Reimbursement: \$469,288.50

- Total Estimate \$625,718.00
- Local Match \$156,429.50 (25%)

Project Description: Installation of street trees along an active construction project (12-foot-wide reinforced concrete shared use trail) that supports alternative mobility in an area of the city facing decline. The active construction project is scheduled to be completed no later than June 2024. The work identified in this application shall be separate and apart from the active construction project.

Proposes to...

- Introduce inviting place making; and
- Introduce trees which “Filter the water we drink, clean the air we breathe, shade our mobility options on sunny days, and provide habitat to terrestrial biodiversity.”

PRIORITY #2

MPO ID: CR-002 (FY 2024)

Submitting Member: City of Waco

Project Title: Negative Emission Tree Planting (Mars Drive Revitalization)

Project Location: Mars Drive Project from FM 1695 (Hewitt Dr) to Texas Central Pkwy

Federal/State Funds Requested for Reimbursement: \$591,750.00

- Total Estimate \$789,000.00
- Local Match \$197,250.00 (25%)

Project Description: Installation of street trees along an active construction project that supports various alternative mobility options adjacent to Midway High School. The active construction project is scheduled to be completed no later than September 2023. The work identified in this application shall be separate and apart from the active construction project.

Proposes to...

- Introduce inviting place making; and
- Introduce trees which “Filter the water we drink, clean the air we breathe, shade our mobility options on sunny days, and provide habitat to terrestrial biodiversity.”

PRIORITY #3

MPO ID: CR-003 (FY 2025)

Submitting Member: City of Waco for Waco Transit Systems, Inc.

Project Title: Mobilizing Microtransit

Project Location: City of Waco

Federal/State Funds Requested for Reimbursement: \$138,800.00

- Total Estimate \$173,500.00
- Local Match \$34,700.00 (20%)

Project Description: Introduce micro transit (on-demand mobility service) which uses a mobile smartphone application to create dynamic routing that adapts to a passenger’s individual trip needs within established zones and provide the service with fully accessible electric vans. This project will fund the purchase of software and one electric van.

Proposes to...

- Purchase fully accessible E-transit electric passenger vans to deploy in newly established micro transit zones;
- Reduce transportation emissions by “decreasing dependence on diesel and unleaded powered vehicles which will reduce CO2 from the atmosphere;”
- Maximize fleet usage and service productivity; and
- Promote economic mobility for Waco citizens.

PRIORITY #4

MPO ID: CR-004 (FY 2025)

Submitting Member: City of McGregor

Project Title: City of McGregor Frogger

Project Location: SH-317 at corners of W 3rd/TX-317 and W 6th/TX-317

Federal/State Funds Requested for Reimbursement: \$148,665.44

- Total Estimate \$193,072.00
- Local Match \$44,406.56 (23%)

Project Description: Installation of pedestrian activated crossings at the corners of W 3rd/TX-317 and W 6th/TX-317. Traffic lights already exist at project location but without the ability to activate them for safe ped/bike crossing.

Proposes to...

- Encourage non-motorized travel throughout the downtown area of McGregor;
- The 3rd Street crossing benefits downtown walkability, as well as community access to the proposed TXDOT TA SUP, which would start at The Exchange and run along the old rail bed to Cotton Belt Parkway; and
- The 6th Street crossing further benefits downtown walkability, as well as accessibility throughout the community. 6th Street is a major East-West neighborhood connector to Johnson Drive in McGregor.

PRIORITY #5

MPO ID: CR-005 (FY 2024)

Submitting Member: Beverly Hills Police Department

Project Title: Emission Reduction & Traffic Safety

Project Location: City of Beverly Hills including S Valley Mills Drive at Memorial Drive

Federal/State Funds Requested for Reimbursement: \$7,521.00

- Total Estimate \$9,521.00
- Local Match \$2,000.00 (21%)

Project Description: Purchase and utilization of a radar traffic trailer to reduce speeding which will reduce miles per gallon in fuel, emissions, and provide a device that increases driver safety awareness and compliance in combination.

Proposes to...

- Decrease average speed levels which “decreases average fuel consumption, which decreases average emissions;”
- Increase pedestrian safety by slowing speeds at unmanned school crossing at S Valley Mills Drive and Memorial Drive; and
- Reduce collisions.

Active Transportation Plan Projects Ranked

Portions of projects listed in the Waco MPO’s Active Transportation Plan (ATP) are being advanced through the Waco MPO’s Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) 2023 Call for Proposals because they present an opportunity for the implementation of low-cost, high-impact pedestrian and bicycle projects which reduce transportation emissions while benefiting communities. The Waco MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Work Group worked cooperatively with MPO staff and member jurisdictions to consider ATP projects using the MPO’s CRP project prioritization criteria which scores projects across the fields of Reduction in Transportation Emissions, Equity, Impact on Future Generations, and Land Use Considerations.

The Waco MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Work Group recommended Projects CR-006 through CR-008 to the MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). These projects were included in the CRP funding recommendations from TAC submitted to the MPO Policy Board for approval.

PRIORITY #1

MPO ID: CR-006 (FY 2024)

Submitting Member: City of Waco

Project Title: Fourth St Sidewalk Improvements

Project Location: S 4th Street between Webster Ave and Jackson Ave

Federal/State Funds Requested for Reimbursement: \$391,360.00

- Total Estimate \$489,200.00
- Local Match \$97,840.00 (20%)

Project Description: Reconstruct sidewalks adjacent to Live Oak School to revitalize the west side of 4th Street from Webster Avenue to Jackson Avenue, a distance of 400 linear feet (0.08 miles). Project includes reconstruction/addition of curb and sidewalks, handicapped accessible ramps, decorative limestone retaining walls, trees, landscaping, and pedestrian lighting.

Highlights...

- Priority in the City of Waco's Downtown Implementation Plan
- Reference project #B-038B in MPO's Active Transportation Plan
- Design Services are 95% complete

PRIORITY #2

MPO ID: CR-007 (FY 2024)

Submitting Member: City of Waco

Project Title: Ritchie Rd Sidewalk Extension

Project Location: Ritchie Road between Park Meadows subdivision and West Warren St

Federal/State Funds Requested for Reimbursement: \$252,000.00

- Total Estimate \$315,000.00
- Local Match \$63,000.00 (20%)

Project Description: Extend sidewalk from residential subdivision to pedestrian crossing at West Warren Road to provide a safe connection to Park Hill Elementary School. Project will contribute to the pedestrian safety enhancements along Ritchie Road from Park Meadows Subdivision to West Warren Street, a distance of 1,310 linear feet (0.25 miles) and will include sidewalks, handicapped accessible ramps, and drainage improvements.

Highlights...

- Priority in the City of Waco's Downtown Implementation Plan
- Reference project #B-075 in MPO's Active Transportation Plan
- Endorsed by Waco Police Department

PRIORITY #3

MPO ID: CR-008 (FY 2024)

Submitting Member: City of Waco

Project Title: Clay Ave Sidewalk Improvements

Project Location: Clay Avenue between South 3rd St and South 8th St

Federal/State Funds Requested for Reimbursement: \$414,800.00

- Total Estimate \$518,500.00
- Local Match \$103,700.00 (20%)

Project Description: Add and improve sidewalks along both sides of Clay Avenue to provide safe and continuous pedestrian connections. This project will contribute to the revitalization of Clay Avenue from 3rd Street to 8th Street, a distance of 2,050 linear feet (0.39 miles) and will include curb and sidewalks, handicapped accessible ramps, decorative limestone retaining walls and landscaping.

Highlights...

- Priority in the City of Waco's Downtown Implementation Plan
- Reference project #B-050 in MPO's Active Transportation Plan
- "Gateway" connection between Magnolia Complex and the riverfront development along the Brazos River adjacent to University Parks Drive.