



## REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Date Requested: <u>June 24, 2024</u>
Requested By: <u>Teresa Evans, Director</u>
Department: <u>Planning and Development</u>
<input type="radio"/> Report <input checked="" type="radio"/> Resolution <input type="radio"/> Ordinance

Appropriation	
Source of Funds:	<u>TBD</u>
Account Number:	<u>TBD</u>
Amount Budgeted:	<u>TBD</u>
Amount Requested:	<u>TBD</u>
Budgeted Item:	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No

**Exhibits:** Resolution 2024-14; Map of Proposed Study Area

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### SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

Houston Galveston Area Council's (H-GAC) is accepting proposals from local government entities, including Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ), to conduct Livable Centers planning studies. The Livable Centers Program facilitates the creation of walkable, mixed-use places by promoting economic generators and housing diversity, encouraging multi-modal transportation options, and promoting equitable and resilient infrastructure.

Livable Centers Planning studies identify specific recommendations, such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, which can help facilitate the creation of Livable Centers. Each study focuses on how to move these recommendations forward to implementation. Livable Centers implementation can take many forms, including on the ground projects built by public or private entities, as well as policy changes or additional planning work. The key benefits are as follows:

- Potential inclusion of identified projects in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and future Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP)
- Eligibility to apply for various federal, state, and local implementation grants. Some of the grants are listed below.
  - Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Funding Opportunities
  - National Highway Performance Program (NHPP)
  - Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG)
  - Transportation Alternatives Program (TIP)
  - Statewide Planning and Research (SPR) or Metropolitan Planning Funds
  - Safe Routes to School
  - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)
  - CMAQ Commuter and Transit Pilot Program
  - Federal and State Funding Opportunities
  - Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
  - Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Discretionary Grant Program (INFRA)
  - Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants
  - Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Capital Funds
  - FTA Urbanized Area Formula Grants (5307)
  - FTA Bus and Bus Facilities Formula Grants (5339)

- FTA Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (5310)
- Smart Growth Implementation Assistance
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) 402: State and Community Highway Safety Grant Program
- NHTSA 405: National Priority Safety Programs (Nonmotorized Safety)
- Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)
- Private Grants
- People for Bikes
- Non-Traditional Funding Opportunities
- Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA)
- State Infrastructure Bank (SIB)

The City of La Porte submitted the notice of intent on May 7, 2024. Staff are preparing the application to submit by the July 8, 2024, deadline.

The cash contribution will be based on the level of community need in the study area that will be assessed through Livable Centers Need Index (LCNI) score. The required cash contribution matching will be as follows:

- LCNI Score > 75: 0% Cash Contribution
- LCNI Score < 75: 10% Cash Contribution
- LCNI Score < 50: 20% Cash Contribution

The study area is approximately 2 square miles and includes portions of Broadway Street and Main Street; neighborhoods; multi-family; governmental buildings; schools; recreational facilities; retail and commercial uses; restaurants; parks and trails; and the waterfront. Most of the study area is located within a 15 min walk from the center.

The LCNI score for the proposed study area is 35.6 as per HGAC and the required contribution from the City is 20%. The estimated cost of the study is \$110,000-\$140,000 with a 20% match estimated to be \$22,000-\$28,000.

This request is for a resolution of support to accompany the application. The amount of the grant and 20% local match has not been determined or granted. If the City of La Porte's application is approved, the appropriation amount will be determined at that time.

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### **STRATEGIC PLAN STRATEGY AND GOAL**

*Infrastructure and Utilities: The City of La Porte will have and maintain a strong infrastructure and up to date facilities to continue to provide superior services for our citizens.*

*Economic Development: The City of La Porte will promote a strong and diverse economy that strengthens the local sales tax and property tax base while also contributing to a high quality of life.*

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**ACTION REQUIRED BY CITY COUNCIL**

**Approve Resolution 2024-14 to authorize the City Manager to sign all documents pertaining to the FY2025-2028 H-GAC Livable Center Study Funding Opportunity.**

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**Approved for the City Council meeting agenda**

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**Corby D. Alexander, City Manager**

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**Date**