



## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** June 16, 2020  
**From:** Gwyneth Teves, Community Development Director  
**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers  
City Attorney Paul Webb  
**Subject:** Status of City of Wharton Grant Projects Report No. 2020-05

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Below, I have outlined a report on the status of the City of Wharton Grant Projects:

### I. GRANT PROJECTS

#### Infrastructure/Construction:

- 1. HMGP – Warning System Mitigation (Siren Warning System)**  
Sirens installed and tested and are now being implemented and tested twice monthly. Emergency Management and the Police Department are working on a standard operating procedure and operation and maintenance plan.
- 2. CDBG-DR – Infrastructure**  
Method of Distribution approved by GLO and HUD. City has received an award of \$1,650,172.00 for infrastructure projects related to Hurricane Harvey. The City Staff met with the GLO for a kickoff meeting 02/17/2020 to review contracts and projects. Projects are being surveyed and specs are being created by the engineers.
- 3. HMGP – FEMA Shelter/Dome**  
HMGP Application submitted by WISD for FEMA Shelter/Dome. The City received notification of Award on January 21, 2020. The City Council accepted the award of the funding for Phase I on 02/10/2020 and the staff attended a kickoff meeting at the WISD Administration Building on 2/18/2020. Agreement with WISD has been reviewed and approved by the School Board. Signed agreement was submitted to the City and is filed with the project. WISD is responsible for all grant activities with the City Staff providing cursory review.
- 4. 2019-2020 CDBG – South East Ave. Sanitary Sewer Repairs**  
Application has been submitted and we are awaiting a response.
- 5. City of Wharton Flood Reduction Project – The Lower Colorado River Basin Phase I, Texas WHARTON FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT**  
The City of Wharton was notified that the Flood Reduction Project was funded in the early part of 2018. City staff has been meeting with USACE staff monthly on items to be addressed. HDR was selected by the City Council on 06/14/19. The acquisition progress has started and HDR is working with the surveyors and appraisers. Impacted

property owners can expect to start receiving appraisals in the next couple of months. USACE staff has indicated they will be ready for as early as Fall 2020. USACE is still in the process of contracting design firms for the remaining portions of the Flood Reduction Project and will be working concurrently on this while phase 1 is in progress.

Phase 2 Design Charette held virtually w/ USACE, Kenall, Inc., Freese & Nichols and City of Wharton staff Tuesday, April 21, 2020. Staff has had monthly coordination meetings and has begun receiving Phase 2 ROE's.

## **Housing:**

### **6. TDHCA – HOME Reservation Participation**

5 applicants have been awarded funding as of 7/17/19. 1 subject has declined the contract. Construction on the first home is complete and signed over and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> homeowner signed closing documents and construction is anticipated to start this quarter.

### **7. CDBG-DR – Buyouts/Acquisitions**

Method of Distribution approved by GLO and HUD. City has received an award of \$1,693,784.00 for buyout/acquisition projects related to Hurricane Harvey. The guidelines have been approved by the GLO and no public comment was received during the required posting period. This should allow the project to begin moving forward with buyouts.

### **8. 2016 CDBG-DR – Housing Elevation/Reconstruction**

Notification of \$2,000,000 funding was received by city staff on February 4, 2019. This funding will assist homeowners with elevation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of homes to address existing damage and mitigate future damage. 6 applicants have submitted applications and 4 are in the state processing. 2 are still pending additional paperwork and proof occupancy at time of disaster.

### **9. TxDOT – Safe Routes to School**

The City submitted the Preliminary Application in April 2019. City staff was notified that the preliminary application had been selected for review and City staff met with TxDOT Representative on May 10, 2019. City Staff submitted the detailed application August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The City was not selected during the 2019-2020 funding. The City was notified that the project will be recommended for the 2020-2021 funding cycle under the SRTS program.

## **Disaster Recovery (non-infrastructure or housing):**

### **10. TDEM - Coronavirus Relief Funds**

Funds made available for reimbursement of medical expenses, public health expenses, payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Expenses of actions to facilitate compliance with COVID-19 related public health measures. Expenses associated with the provision of economic support in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency. And any other COVID-19 – related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government that satisfy the fund's eligibility criteria

including possible economic assistance funding.

**11. HMGP – Critical Facility Generators**

HMGP Application was submitted on 9/11/18 and we received notification of award by TDEM 02/18/2020. 1 RFI has been requested and responded to.

**II. STUDIES:**

**12. City of Wharton, Texas Community Wayfinding Program**

Wharton Downtown Business Association (WDBA), and Wharton Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) are working in partnership with the Wharton Chamber of Commerce and the City of Wharton complete a wayfinding study. The wayfinding study is set to begin in June with a stakeholder meeting.

**III. OTHER PROJECTS & EVENTS:**

**13. Mini Mural Art Park – Cultural Arts**

Community Development department has submitted an application to AARP for funding to establish a mini mural art park in the space adjacent to City Hall. Application is pending response.

**14. City of Wharton “Back in Business” Campaign**

Over 400 letters went out to local businesses the first 2 weeks of April giving businesses COVID 19 funding and recovery resources. Community Development has been collaborating with the WEDC, Chamber and WDBA on a weekly basis to assist in coordinating a recovery effort for local businesses. We have reached out to BCL to collaborate with them on funding for small businesses and are working with them on plans to begin implementation.