

## NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

**Date of Notice:** March 14, 2023  
City of El Paso, Department of Economic Development  
300 N. Campbell St.  
El Paso, Texas 79901  
915.212.0094

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of El Paso.

### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

**On or about April 4, 2023 the City of El Paso's Department of Economic Development will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Ft. Worth, Texas for the release of \$1,000,000 Community Project Funding funds under 136 STAT. 740 Community Planning and Development of the Public Law 117-03 as amended, to undertake a project known as Paso Del Norte Trail for the purpose of The City of El Paso will partner with the Paso del Norte Community Foundation and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to complete a nearly one mile long pilot section of a county-wide trail system. The pilot segment will serve as a model infrastructure project demonstrating the value of trails for our community and connecting a central employment hub, the Medical Center of the Americas to a major public facility, the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens. The pilot segment prioritizes connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists, provides safe recreation space, and creates a community amenity to promote healthy lifestyles, drive ecotourism, improve the visual impression of the community, increase the value of nearby residential and commercial properties, and to promote sustainable development. The 0.84 mile, paved, multi-use segment that comprises this project is adjacent to the Franklin Canal and the trail will be constructed within the right-of-way of TxDOT. The western terminus of this trail segment will abut the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens, and its eastern terminus will abut Fox Plaza, a long-standing marketplace and shopping center. District 8.**

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**The City of El Paso has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at City of El Paso, Department of Community and Human Development for Economic Development, 801 Texas Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor (CITY 3), El Paso, Texas 79901 and is available online at City of El Paso, Department of Economic Development website: <https://www.elpasotexas.gov/economic-development/grants>.**

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of El Paso, Economic Development c/o Department of Community and Human Development, 801 Texas Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, El Paso, Texas 79901 or submitted via email to [DCHDCompliance@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:DCHDCompliance@elpasotexas.gov). All comments received by April 4, 2023; mailing and posting date plus eighteen days will be considered by the City of El Paso prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of El Paso's Economic Development Department certifies to Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Ft. Worth, Texas that Elda Rodriguez-Hefner, Grant Administrator for Margarita Muñoz in her capacity as City Comptroller for the City of El Paso consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of El Paso to use Program funds.

## OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of El Paso certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the **Certifying Officer** of the City of El Paso; (b) the City of El Paso's Economic Development Department has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 801 Cherry St., Unit #456, Ste. 2500, Ft. Worth, Texas 76102 or via email to: [CPD\\_COVID-19OEE-FTW@hud.gov](mailto:CPD_COVID-19OEE-FTW@hud.gov). **Potential objectors should contact Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at Ft. Worth, Texas to verify the actual last day of the objection period.**

Elda Rodriguez-Hefner, Grant Administrator for **Certifying Officer**  
Margarita Muñoz, City Comptroller  
Office of the Comptroller  
City of El Paso  
300 N. Campbell (CITY 1)  
El Paso, Texas 79901  
915.212.1170

---