



## Engineering Department

**DATE:** July 7, 2021  
**FROM:** Gabe Schell, City Engineer  
**ITEM:** NDDOT COVID Relief Funds

**REQUEST:**

Consider approval assignment of North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) COVID Relief Funds to upcoming 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE reconstruction project 1-981(123), PCN 22929; HC 131 from State Street to 26<sup>th</sup> Street.

Please place this item on the July 13, 2021 City Commission meeting agenda.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The NDDOT has received additional federal Highway Infrastructure funding and has shared these funds with the 12 major cities and 53 counties. These funds can be combined with other federal funds but cannot be used to match federal funds. These funds are restricted to be used only on projects on the federal aid system and to be used on one project only and therefore cannot be split and assigned to multiple projects. The City of Bismarck would receive \$574,285.

It is my recommendation to assign these dollars to the 2022 reconstruction of 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE from State Street to 26<sup>th</sup> Street. This project has \$4,800,000 in federal funds programmed for 2024 and will be constructed initially with half-cent sales tax with the reimbursement of the federal funds to occur in 2024. All NDDOT processes are being followed for this project and the additional \$574,285 would not negatively impact the project with any additional workload, oversight or construction cost increase. The assignment of these dollars to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE reconstruction would free up an equal amount of half-cent sales tax funds to be used on future projects.

This request was presented to the budget committee and they concurred in the recommended action.

**RECOMMENDED CITY COMMISSION ACTION:**

Approve assignment of North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) COVID Relief Funds to upcoming 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE reconstruction project 1-981(123), PCN 22929; HC 131 from State Street to 26<sup>th</sup> Street.

**STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Gabe Schell, PE | City Engineer, 355-1505 or [gschell@bismarcknd.gov](mailto:gschell@bismarcknd.gov)

January 26, 2021

Chairperson – Board of County Commission  
City Engineers – 12 Major Cities

#### COVID RELIEF FUNDS

With the recent passage of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), the State of North Dakota received Highway Infrastructure funding. NDDOT will be sharing these funds with the 12 major cities and 53 counties per the regular distribution formulas for both the County and Urban Roads programs. The amount of funds your agency will be receiving can be found on the attached spreadsheet.

These funds are eligible up to 100% federal and do not require a local match. The funds can be combined with other federal funds; however, they cannot be used to match federal funds. Once these funds are obligated, they need to be spent in their entirety and cannot be de-obligated. Any unspent funds on a project will go back to the Federal Government, no exceptions. These funds must be obligated by September 30, 2024.

These funds are eligible for all current federal aid eligible items as well as the following special items: help offset the loss of gas tax revenues; costs related to preventive maintenance; routine maintenance; operations; personnel – including salaries of employees (including those employees who have been placed on administrative leave) or contractors; debt service payments; and coverage for other revenue losses.

However, if you chose or wish to get reimbursed for any special items listed above, the LPAs must have been Title VI compliant prior to any expenditure and will be subject to a potential Title VI Audit. LPAs must also have a current Single audit/annual financial audit and NDDOT Single Audit Certification. LPA's who previously submitted Title VI documents will need to update and submit their Title VI paperwork.

If you choose to place these funds onto a project, we will work with you to schedule a project.

If you have any questions, please contact Stacey Hanson at 701-328-4469 or Bryon Fuchs at 701-328-2516.



PAUL BENNING, P.E. –LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENGINEER

C: MPO Directors  
County Engineers/Highway Superintendents  
Steve Salwei, NDDOT – Transportation Programs Director

**COVID Relief Funds - Urban  
Roads System**

	<b>Urban Roads Distribution (per formula) \$4,680,449</b>
Bismarck	\$574,285
Devils Lake	\$237,800
Dickinson	\$294,145
Fargo	\$808,620
Grand Forks	\$479,650
Jamestown	\$281,654
Mandan	\$347,210
Minot	\$416,405
Valley City	\$284,860
Wahpeton	\$291,110
West Fargo	\$386,710
Williston	\$278,000

March 17, 2021

Chairperson – Board of County Commission  
City Engineers – 12 Major Cities

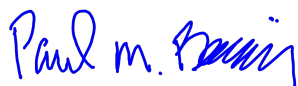
#### COVID RELIEF FUNDS – REVISED ELIGIBILITY

On January 26, 2021, we sent you a letter regarding the allocation amounts each agency was going to receive as well as the eligibility for the COVID Relief funds. Since that letter was sent out, NDDOT has received guidance from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on some of the many requirement's needing to be met in order to authorize these funds.

Based on the recent guidance and discussions with FHWA, the risk of funding special items is too great, therefore, NDDOT is revising the eligibility of these funds. The allocation amounts will remain the same, however, eligibility or use of these funds will be limited to the following.

- Will remain eligible at 100%, no local match required.
- Only eligible on “project related costs”, normal federal aid participation items.
- All projects need to be on the federal aid system or a qualifying bridge.
- All projects need to be bid through NDDOT.
- The special items previously listed WILL NO LONGER be eligible.
- Funds must be obligated by September 30, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact Stacey Hanson at 701-328-4469 or Bryon Fuchs at 701-328-2516.



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