

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

Publication Date: July 2, 2024 – July 17, 2024

City of New Orleans Office of Community Development
1340 Poydras Street, 10th floor.
New Orleans, LA 70112
504-658-4200

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by The City of New Orleans.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about July 18, 2024, The City of New Orleans Office of Community Development will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) grant funds under Public Law 113-2 of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, to undertake a project known as the “Blue Green Corridor Phase II Filmore Street”. Phase II of the Blue Green Corridor project focuses on the neutral ground (median) of Filmore Avenue from 1800 to 2600 Filmore Avenue which will be enhanced with sidewalks, drainage pipes and catch basins, and rain gardens. Rain gardens in the median will be excavated to 4 feet maximum depth. Drainage pipes (18" in diameter) and catch basins will be added at an average depth of 6 feet to connect the rain gardens to existing subsurface drainage structures. In the roadway street section from 1800 to 2600 Filmore Avenue, pavement markers and lane delineators will be added to create a protected 5-foot-wide bike lane. Pavement markings and ADA ramps will be added at the intersections to improve pedestrian safety and connect existing street sidewalks to the new sidewalks in the median. Bioswales will be added to the street right of way at the outer edge of the roadway at an average depth of 18 inches. New 18-inch diameter concrete drainage pipes and catch basins will be added in the street right of way at an average depth of six feet to connect the new bioswales to existing subsurface drainage structures. Bioswales will be planted with a mixture of non-invasive, native species, and species adapted for urban environments. No excavation is planned beyond what is needed for rain gardens, bioswales and drainage structures to connect to the existing drainage system. No work is proposed outside of the existing Filmore Avenue median and right of way.

This phase of the project as described above will use approximately \$6,000,000.00 of the City of New Orleans’ CDBG-DR federal funding under grant number B-13-MS-22-0002. The total cost for the complete project is approximately \$42,000,000.00.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of New Orleans has determined that the project will not have a 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 the City of New Orleans, Office of Community Development, 1340 Poydras Street, 10th floor, New Orleans, LA 70112, and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To view the full, ERR call 658-4365 or e-mail cafoundas@nola.gov for an appointment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development. All comments received by July 17, 2024, will be considered by this office prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which Notice they are addressing. Comments can also be emailed to cafoundas@nola.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of New Orleans certifies to HUD that Tyra Johnson Brown, Director of Housing Policy and Community Development in her capacity as Certifying Officer for Environmental Review for the City of New Orleans 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. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of New Orleans to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of New Orleans' certification received by August 2, 2024, or 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 or other officer of the City of New Orleans; (b) the City of New Orleans 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 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:

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
Attn: Environmental Compliance
Hale Boggs Building
500 Poydras Street, 9th floor
New Orleans, LA 70130

Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period regarding the federal funds.

LaToya Cantrell, Mayor
Tyra Johnson Brown,
Director of Housing Policy and Community Development/Environmental Certifying Officer