

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Rebecca Gleason, Assistant City Manager
Date: September 30, 2022
Subject: Weekly Memo, September 26 – September 30, 2022



=====

Upcoming Training

Below are future training opportunities through the calendar year. If you are interested in attending any of the training, please notify the City Secretary and she will take care of the registration for you.

TML Economic Development Conference

Date: November 17-18, 2022
Time: All Day
Location: Hyatt Lost Pines

TML Annual Conference and Exhibition

We are looking forward to the 110th TML Annual Conference and Exhibition which will be held October 5-7, 2022, at the Henry B. González Convention Center in San Antonio.

Special Events

Bastrop Boo Bash

The 2022 Bastrop Boo Bash will be held at Fisherman's Park on Saturday, October 1, from 5 - 7 pm. Members of the community, businesses, and organizations will hand out treats and candy. The event is free and open to the public. Stay after the event for Movies in the Park showing Beetlejuice. Fisherman's Park will be closed at 2:00 pm for the event.

Board and Commission Banquet

The Board and Commission Banquet will be held on Monday, October 3, at the Bastrop Convention Center. Doors will open at 6:00 pm.

Farm Street Opry

This month's Farm Street Opry will be on October 6, at 5:30 pm with guest performers Bob Appel and Neil Kulhanek. Acting City Manager Trey Job will be MCing the event along with his wife, Joy.

Go Purple Day

The Family Crisis Center will be promoting domestic violence awareness and recognizing the strength of survivors and our communities by wearing purple on Thursday, October 20.

Women's Leadership Luncheon

The 4th Annual Women's Leadership Luncheon will be held at the Bastrop Convention Center on Tuesday, October 25. The luncheon will begin at 11:15 am and will feature two guest speakers, Lyuda

Bailey and Sumai Lokumbe, reflecting on their journeys, their roles in the community, and what inspires them. Please let Ann Franklin know if you'd like to attend.

City Manager Swearing-In

City Manager Sylvia Carrillo will be sworn in on Monday, October 3, at 4:30 pm with a small reception to follow.

Pink Party

The Recreation Program will be recognizing and honoring Breast Cancer Awareness Month by hosting a PINK PARTY Friday, October 14, at Bob Bryant Park from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The purpose is to educate the community about the resources available to families and those who have been diagnosed with the disease, to emphasize the value of early detection, and to celebrate survivors and their families. There will be lots of dancing - ZUMBA, BOLLYX, Youth Dance, and even a little Break Dancing. Local health organizations that provide resources for early detection, treatment, and more will be there to connect with residents.



Austin Community College Classes

We are pleased to announce that ACC will begin their first class in the City of Bastrop on October 17, 2022, which will be Introduction to Arc Metal Welding at the BP&L building in the evenings. Thanks to an introduction for the BEDC, Assistant City Manager Gleason has been meeting with ACC regularly to connect them to spaces, people, and opportunities. We are currently trying to find good locations to add

HVAC and plumbing courses as well. Please help us spread the word on this opportunity as classes must have 15 signups in order to be held.



Introduction to Arc Metal Welding

Austin Community College
in Partnership with the
City of Bastrop

Where: Bastrop Power & Light
1209 Linden Street, Bastrop TX 78602

When: October 17 - November 14, 2022,
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 6:00pm - 9:30pm

To Apply:
Please call Workforce Solutions Rural
Capital Area at 512-303-3916

- Accepting Applications from now through October 14, 2022
- Must be 18 or older
- Financial Assistance available for those who qualify

COST: \$451.00



Domestic Violence Awareness Month

On October 1, several City buildings will be lit up purple in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month to recognize the staggering statistics surrounding violence in the home and with intimate partners. The Bastrop community is fortunate to have a strong set of support organizations, including the Family Crisis Center, providing resources to those affected by domestic violence. We are grateful for our community support groups and want to spread the message that help is available.

Bastrop Night Out

Thank you to everyone who participated in Bastrop Night Out! It was a great evening of fun, fellowship, and food. Recreation Manager Terry Moore worked hard in coordination with our neighborhood captains to ensure everyone had a great evening and our police, fire, and elected officials were able to make quality connections with our community. We are following up with neighborhood captains with a survey to hear from their perspective of what went well and ways we can better support them. We are also working to properly recognize them for their efforts.



Youth Disc Golf Clinic

Beginning October 5, Recreation will host a free, 6-week Youth Disc Golf Clinic. Instructors for the clinic are John and Catherine Castruita. The clinic will be on Wednesdays and hosted at the new Disc Golf course at Bob Bryant Park from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Youth ages 8 to 14 will learn the basics of disc golf and how to play the game. Disc golf is both a physical and mental sport and a great way to promote health and wellness for our community.

Municipal Court

The Municipal Court will be closed next week, Monday, October 3, through Wednesday, October 5, and again on Friday, October 7. The team will be using this time to migrate to a new software platform. The online portal will be open and available for payments to be processed during this closure.

Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings

October 12 at 3:30 pm *Bastrop Fitness Project*. Location is 301 Martin Luther King Dr
October 25 at 12:00 pm *Bastrop County Republican Party*. Location is 443 W. Hwy 71
October 27 at 4:00 pm *HOTWORX*. Location is 494 Hwy 71 W, Ste 108
November 17 at 4:00 pm *RE/MAX Bastrop Area*. Location is 807 Main St

Future Agenda Items

October 11, 2022

- Financial Report

- Simsboro Aquifer Water Treatment Plant, Well Field and Transmission Facilities
- Street Rehabilitation Program
- Ordinance Amendment, Second Reading – “Water and Wastewater Rates and Charges”
- Certificates of Obligation Resolution
- Ordinance Amendment, First Reading – “Utilities”
- Piney Ridge Section 1 Block A Lot 11 Replat – Variances Appeal
- Piney Ridge Section 1 Block A Replat Appeal
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan Award
- BEDC Resolution – Doucet

Attachments

- TML Legislative Update Number #39

TML LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



September 30, 2022
Number 39

Next Week: Resolutions to Be Considered at 2022 Annual Conference and Your City Delegate

Next week at the 2022 TML Annual Conference in San Antonio, several resolutions will be considered by the membership for inclusion in the TML Legislative Program. The topics relate, among other things, to:

1. Policy Summit Report
2. Ballot Propositions
3. Hotel Occupancy Taxes
4. Zoning/Super Majority Requirements
5. Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs)
6. Competitive Procurement
7. Emergency Service Districts (ESDs)
8. Affordable Housing

The full resolutions packet can be found [here](#). The resolutions will be debated at the TML Business Meeting on **October 6 at 3:30 p.m.** Additional resolutions relating to member service fees and

meeting procedures under the TML Constitution may be added to the packet after a Tuesday TML Board meeting at the Conference.

Each city is entitled to one voting delegate at the business meeting. The delegate is not required to have any expertise, and an elected official delegate is encouraged but not required. The delegate can sign up electronically [here](#) prior to the meeting or sign up in person at a table outside of the meeting room. Cities are encouraged to sign up their delegate early using the link above.

All city officials are welcome to attend the meeting, whether or not they are a voting delegate.

FCC Opens the Broadband Data Challenge Process

On September 12, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) opened the [Broadband Data Bulk Challenge Process](#) for the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric (BSL Fabric) to local governments and other eligible entities. The BSL Fabric is the common dataset of all locations in the United States where fixed broadband internet service is available or can be installed. Local governments can now file challenges to the available data to either correct or supplement the available data released.

The challenge process is a crucial step in the FCC's broadband data collection effort. Broadband funds in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will be allocated by a formula determined by this data, so the need for accurate data relating to broadband access is of the utmost importance. The National League of Cities has published an [article](#) that provides in-depth coverage of the challenge process.

Reminder: Public Hearing on October 17 on Local Sales Tax Sourcing

Last week, the League [reported](#) that the comptroller has re-proposed changes to Sec. 3.334 and will hold a public hearing on **Monday, October 17, 2022** to receive comments on the revised rule. The new rule comes after a [district judge sided](#) with six cities who challenged the sales tax sourcing rule on internet orders adopted by the comptroller in 2020. The entire rule proposal, including background information, can be found [here](#).

The October 17 hearing will take place at 9:00 a.m. in Room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 Congress Ave., Austin, Texas 78701. Interested city officials may sign up to testify beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the hearing, and testimony will be heard on a first come, first served basis. Everyone wishing to testify will have ten minutes to present their testimony and are required to also provide their testimony in writing prior to their oral testimony.

In addition, interested city officials may submit comments to Jennifer Burleson, Director, Tax Policy Division, P.O. Box 13528, Austin, Texas 78711-3528 or to the email address: tp.rule.comments@cpa.texas.gov. Comments must be received no later than 30 days from the date

of publication of the proposal in the *Texas Register*, which means the comment deadline falls on Sunday, October 23, 2022.

Federal Infrastructure Bill Update

In November 2021, the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law. The IIJA is altogether a \$1.2 trillion bill that will invest in the nation's core infrastructure priorities including roads, bridges, rail, transit, airports, ports, energy transmission, water systems, and broadband.

The League will monitor state and federal agencies and work with the National League of Cities (NLC) to access the latest information relating to the IIJA. We will be providing periodic updates in the Legislative Update on resources for Texas cities on how to access IIJA funding for local infrastructure projects.

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

[DOT recently announced](#) the availability of grants under two IIJA-funded programs that use technology to improve transportation infrastructure.

First, DOT announced \$100 million for the [Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation \(SMART\) discretionary grant program](#). SMART grants were established to fund projects focused on advanced smart city or community technologies that will improve transportation efficiency and safety. Grant funding is designed to be used for projects that demonstrate at least one of the following: (1) coordinated automation; (2) connected vehicles; (3) sensors; (4) systems integration; (5) delivery/logistics; (6) innovative aviation; (7) smart grid; and (8) traffic signals. The deadline to apply for this round of SMART grants is November 18, 2022, at 4:00 PM CST. DOT expects to award 30-50 Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grants of up to \$2 million each. Cities are eligible applicants for the funding, and no cost-sharing is required. The Notice of Funding Availability can be found [here](#).

Additionally, DOT announced the availability of \$60 million under the Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) program. The ATTAIN program is designed to promote advanced technologies to improve safety and reduce travel times for drivers and transit riders. Under the IIJA, the FHWA will evaluate applications for ATTAIN funding based on how the project considers climate change and environmental justice impacts, as well as their economic impact and ability to create jobs. The application deadline for this round of ATTAIN funding is also November 18, 2022. The Notice of Funding Availability can be found [here](#).

The Federal Railroad Administration [extended the application submittal period](#) for the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program from October 4 to October 11. The program is designed to “help improve safety, eliminate lengthy delays at railroad crossings in communities across the country, and ultimately lower the costs of transporting goods, making them more affordable for American families.” At least 20% of funding will go to rural and Tribal areas, and political subdivisions, including cities, are eligible applicants.

National League of Cities (NLC)

NLC has recently posted articles on the following topics related to programs funded under the IIJA:

- [Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity \(RAISE\) Grant awards](#). The article details DOT's recent award of more than \$2.2 billion dollars from the RAISE Program, focusing on specific projects across the country. (Note: the first round of RAISE grant awards [included funding for six transportation projects in Texas](#), three of which were for projects with the city as lead applicant.) The article also highlights other transportation grant opportunities under the IIJA.
- [Brownfield Redevelopment](#). The IIJA allocated over \$1.5 billion for brownfield cleanup activities. The article discusses grant opportunities that are currently open for brownfield redevelopment, as well as some upcoming grant opportunities.

House and Senate Committee Interim Hearings

The Texas House and Senate Committees are underway studying interim charges outlined by Speaker Phelan and Lt. Governor Dan Patrick.

Below is a full list of committee hearings set to hear certain city-related charges. All hearings will be held at the Texas Capitol unless otherwise indicated. If a committee has newly posted notice and was not included in last week's edition of the *Legislative Update*, it is indicated as such.

***NEW* House Committee on Energy Resources**

The committee will meet on Tuesday, October 4 at 9:00 a.m. in Midland to hear the following interim charges:

Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 87th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure the intended legislative outcome of all legislation including the following:

- [H.B. 1520](#), relating to extraordinary costs incurred by gas utilities relating to Winter Storm Uri and the authority to issue bonds and impose fees and assessments; and
- [H.B. 3648](#), which requires the designation of certain natural gas facilities as critical customers or critical gas suppliers during energy emergencies.

Examine ways to increase the production of oil and gas within the state. Review state and local regulations that could directly impact the exploration or production of oil and gas and make recommendations for increasing Texas' energy independence.

Information on the hearing, including how to submit electronic comment, can be found [here](#).

House Committee on Transportation

The committee will meet on Thursday, October 6 at 9:00 a.m. in Corpus Christi to hear the following interim charge:

Study the impacts that increased federal funding, formula changes, and new programs authorized in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will have on state transportation projects. Evaluate strategies to ensure Texas communities can maximize receipt of federal grant funds.

Information on the hearing, including how to submit electronic comment, can be found [here](#).

TML member cities may use the material herein for any purpose. No other person or entity may reproduce, duplicate, or distribute any part of this document without the written authorization of the Texas Municipal League.