City Council Agenda Item Request
Submit to Clerk's Office
No later than 30 days before proposed Council meeting

1. **Date submitted to Clerk's Office:** 7/7/2025

2. **Primary contact person and Department requesting agenda item:** Walter Ear / Capital Management

3. **Requested Council meeting date:** 7/29/2025

4. **Subject:** FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program - Grant Authorization

5. **Action Requested:** Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit subapplications and receive funds for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

6. **Note if time sensitive, and why:** The FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant program has tight deadlines for the completion of design documents. Delaying until the August meeting may be detrimental to meeting the FEMA deadlines.

7. **Potential fiscal impact(s) - if known by staff at time of request:** Expenditure of funding for projects in advance of grant funded reimbursements.

8. **Identify all vendor outreach for Minority & Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE).**
    - Funding for these FEMA grants requires compliance with federal requirements.
    - City staff will comply with federal outreach requirements when the related projects and contracts are solicited.

9. **Identify all Boards, Commissions and Council Committees with tentative dates - add in the vote and recommendation from each Board:**

10. **Identify key issues:**
    - HMGP is a FEMA program administered by the state of NC, Emergency Management Division, and includes both a private property acquisition program and a community infrastructure projects program.
        i. The state of NC is the Applicant. Asheville is a subapplicant to the state.
        ii. It is anticipated that matching funds will be provided by the state.
    - To date, the city has submitted nine letters of interest (LOI) for community infrastructure projects. Seven of which may lead to construction projects.
        i. If all submitted projects are awarded, the total of all project costs (studies, design, construction, etc) may amount to approximately $ 249 M.
        ii. Additional projects and related letters of interest are being considered.
    - FEMA requires that HMGP projects related to construction meet very tight deadlines for completion of their design documents. Near-complete designs, permitting documents, and cost estimates must be submitted to FEMA by the summer of 2026 in order to qualify for the grant program.
    - Formal action for City Council will come in the form of a Budget Amendment to receive the funding, and adjust the CIP.

HMGP LOI Project List

1. **Local Watershed-Wide Early Warning Systems**

Proposes an assessment of the gaps in the existing flood monitoring and warning system, development of construction plans and specifications, and installation of flood monitoring and warning devices at key locations in the watershed to provide an improved flood monitoring warning system.

2. **Resilient Enhancements to Codes and Standards**

The City will conduct a technical review and update to the City's comprehensive plan, and comprehensive review of the sections of the City code that improve resilience to flood and other natural disasters. Comparable codes from similarly situated jurisdictions will be surveyed and used to evaluate best practices for regulatory flood mitigation measures and other hazard mitigation concerns.

3. **North Fork Alternate Route Utility Protection**

The eventual proposed project is the construction of a 48" water transmission main between the North Fork Water Treatment Plan and Bee Tree junction, approximately 33,500 LF with cross connections to 36" and 24" water mains, to provide redundancy to ensure reliable services to the City when the existing system fails from natural hazard events.

4. **Flood Mitigation River Arts District Infrastructure**

The French Broad Riverfront Recovery project is a multifaceted recovery project to be funded by FEMA Public Assistance, CDBG-DR, HMGP, and other grants. The final comprehensive grant will include a public space along the riverfront that is not only beautiful and functional but also capable of withstanding and adapting to flooding. Scope related to HMGP funding will focus primarily on mitigation activities.

5. **Flood Mitigation Azalea Road Park & Infrastructure**

The Azalea Park and Infrastructure Recovery project is a multifaceted recovery project to be funded by FEMA Public Assistance, CDBG-DR, HMGP, and other grants. The final comprehensive grant will include a public space along the riverfront that is not only beautiful and functional but also capable of withstanding and adapting to flooding. Scope related to HMGP funding will focus primarily on mitigation activities.

6. **Critical Facility Generators, Backup Power Systems**

This project will increase power system resilience and help ensure continuity of critical emergency services during a disaster or other emergencies. New or supplemental systems will be evaluated and/or installed, and replacements will be included where existing generators have exceeded their useful life. The project will consider generators and solar photovoltaic with battery back up systems where feasible.

7. **Fire, Police, & Critical Facilities Wind Mitigation**

The project's mitigation objective is to protect critical facilities, equipment and vehicles from high wind / severe storm events. The work typically includes window replacement, structural capacity and other building envelope improvements.

8. **Central Asheville Watershed Mitigation**

The study area is a two (2) square mile drainage basin with the largest watershed known as the Nasty Branch or Town Branch Watershed. The proposed plan will review and assess the following mitigation solutions: high flow storage, constructed wetlands, stream and riparian restoration, erosion/energy dissipation. Specific scope of work includes: current conditions survey, hydraulics and hydrology study to study the mitigation solutions above, data collection for benefit-cost analyses, environmental compliance and other program requirements.

9. **North Asheville Flood Risk Reduction Project**

The proposed project includes, stream restoration with constructed wetland areas and pipe improvements along Celia Place as well as stormwater storage areas along Sunset Parkway, increase culvert sizes for additional capacity from Edwin Place down to the stream adjacent to Murdock Avenue, and adds new infrastructure down Canterbury Road and Oak Lane to Sunset Parkway.