

OEA TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS APPROVED

Monday, September 17, 2012

On September 14, 2012, the Department of Defense (DoD) awarded the latest two transportation grants from the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), including a \$25 million grant to the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) to improve access to the San Antonio Military Medical Center, and a \$7.3 million grant to the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration (SHA) for the Maryland Route 187/West Cedar Lane/Oakmont Avenue intersection project for improved access to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda

Previously, in August, 2012, Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta announced two other transportation grants from OEA, including a \$40 million grant to Montgomery County, Maryland for pedestrian and multimodal transportation access to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, and a \$5.7 million grant to the City of Lakewood, Washington for improvements to the Freedom Bridge overpass near the Madigan Army Medical Center gate. And in July, 2012, the Department of Defense and the Department of Transportation jointly announced the approval of \$180 million from OEA for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to widen U.S. Route 1 through Fort Belvoir. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission process increased personnel and traffic at all of these communities.

Speaking at the August 6, 2012 Association of Defense Communities Annual Conference in Monterey, California, Secretary Panetta said, "These programs will greatly improve access to these important and growing facilities, and they are a tangible sign of our commitment to working with communities impacted by BRAC." During his remarks Secretary Panetta also said, "The reality is that our communities are a tremendous resource for the Department of Defense...If we are to remain the strongest military on earth, we have to protect and invest in those programs essential to the health and morale of our force – in areas such as housing, environmental cleanup, education and transportation."

Funding for these transportation projects is provided under the \$300 million program authorized by Section 8110 of Public Law 112-10, The DoD and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011, which enabled the Department of Defense to finance projects for transportation infrastructure improvements associated with medical facilities related to the 2005 round of the Base Closure and Realignment process. In November 2011, OEA invited applications for eight projects after a selection panel comprised of Defense and Transportation officials reviewed proposals to improve access to medical facilities across the nation.

\$25M Grant to TXDOT - The grant to TXDOT, awarded September 14, 2012, will be used to build a new direct connector bridge between Interstate 35 and Interstate (Loop) 410; demolish the existing bridge; build new entrance and exit ramps for the San Antonio Military Medical Center; and complete all related improvements. The project will improve access to the Medical Center, facilitating a safer and easier commute for patients, military service members, and civilian employees. San Antonio Military Medical Center serves a Department of Defense beneficiary population of over 230,000 in the Greater San Antonio area. In 2010 alone, the San

Antonio Medical Center scheduled over 3.8 million medical appointments through an array of inpatient, outpatient, and ambulatory services. TXDOT will carry out this project in cooperation with the City of San Antonio and the Federal Highway Administration's Texas Division. Groundbreaking for the project may commence once all environmental requirements have been met.

\$7.3M Grant to Maryland SHA - The grant to Maryland SHA, awarded September 14, 2012, will be used to construct the Maryland Route 187 (Old Georgetown Road) and West Cedar Lane/Oakmont Avenue intersection project that adds an exclusive right-turn lane on westbound West Cedar Lane, adds an exclusive right-turn lane on northbound Maryland Route 187 south of West Cedar Lane/Oakmont Avenue, and upgrades the intersection and sidewalks to comply with Americans with Disability Act and other requirements. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission increased personnel at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center by almost one-third to 10,200 – and doubled the Medical Center's visitor load to 1,000,000 per year. SHA will carry out this project in cooperation with Montgomery County, Maryland, the nearby National Institutes of Health, and the Federal Highway Administration's DelMar Division.

\$40M Grant to Montgomery County, MD - The grant to Montgomery County, Maryland, awarded on August 3, 2012, will also facilitate a safer and easier commute for patients, service members, and civilian employees of the Walter Reed Bethesda Medical Center as well as the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bethesda campus. The funding is for a \$68,174,000 project, which previously received \$28,174,000 million from the Department's Defense Access Road Program. The funds will be used to design and construct a shallow pedestrian and bicycle passageway under Maryland Route 355 (Rockville Pike) connecting the Medical Center side to the Medical Center Metrorail Station and transit center; and three high-speed elevators to connect the Medical Center at street level to the Metrorail mezzanine level 120 feet below. Improvements at the main entrance to the Medical Center campus are also included. The County will complete the project in coordination with the Maryland State Highway Administration, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the National Institutes of Health, the Federal Highway Administration's DelMar Division and the Command at NSA Bethesda.

\$5.7M Grant to the City of Lakewood, WA - The grant to Lakewood, Washington, awarded on August 3, 2012, will alleviate congestion and improve safety along the Berkeley Street corridor between the Joint Base Lewis-McChord/Madigan Army Medical Center gate and the Union/Berkeley intersection. The funds will be used to add another eastbound lane to the bridge; a second left turn lane to the I-5 southbound off-ramp; upgrade and coordinate traffic signals to improve overall efficiencies of the transportation system; and add pedestrian facilities for improved safety. The Lakewood funding will improve access to Madigan Army Medical Center, facilitating a safer and easier commute for patients, service members, and civilian employees. Madigan Army Medical Center serves a beneficiary population of over 108,000 soldiers, family members, and retirees in a six-state area. Lakewood will complete the project in coordination with the State of Washington Department of Transportation and the Command at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Groundbreaking for the Lakewood project will commence once all environmental requirements have been met.

\$180M Funding for U.S. Route 1 Funding, Fort Belvoir - The U.S. Route 1 project funding, announced on July 16, 2012, will widen -- from four to six lanes -- 3.5 miles of U.S. Route 1 from Telegraph Road north to Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. The project will include new bike lanes, pedestrian facilities, drainage and utility improvements. It will also preserve a corridor for future transit needs. The expansion of U.S. Route 1 will facilitate a safer and easier commute for patients, service members, and civilian employees of the new Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. The project will improve access to Fort Belvoir at Tully Gate and Pence Gate, which serve as the main access points to the new Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. The hospital receives over 574,000 outpatients and 10,000 inpatients per year and impacts Fort Belvoir access for 23,000 military and civilian personnel in the area. Acting through an interagency agreement, the Federal Highway Administration Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division will complete the U.S. Route 1 project in coordination with Fairfax County, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Command at Fort Belvoir. Groundbreaking for the project may commence once all environmental requirements have been met.