



Office of Senator Warren - FY2023 Congressional Directed Spending

Requests (Montague: Avenue A Streetscape Improvement Project)

Name & Contact Info

Steven Ellis
Work: 413-863-3200
Mobile: 413-530-6496
stevene@montague-ma.gov

Mailing Address

6 Stevens Street
Turners Falls MA 01376

Permanent Address

6 Stevens Street
Turners Falls MA 01376

* indicates a required field.

Section 1. Requesting Entity Information

1. Name of Project *

Montague-Turners Falls Avenue A Streetscape Improvement Project

2. Name of Submitting Organization *

Town of Montague

3. Name and Title of Head of Organization / Department / Agency *

Steven Ellis, Town Administrator

4. Organization Mailing Address Line 1 *

Montague Town Hall

5. Organization Mailing Address Line 2 *

One Avenue A

6. Organization Mailing City *

Turners Falls

7. Organization Mailing County *

Franklin County

8. Organization Mailing State *

MA

9. Organization Mailing Zip Code *

01376

10. Is the organization a not-for-profit entity? *

Please note that for-profit organizations are not eligible for Congressionally Directed Spending.

No

10.1 Tax Identification Number

No answer.

11. How many CDS requests is your organization submitting? *

1

12. Priority Ranking of Proposal *

If only one proposal is being submitted, please enter 1. Please note that it will be very challenging to fund multiple proposals per submitting entity.

1

13. Congressionally Directed Spending Request Amount *

Please enter a dollar amount.

975000

14. Total Cost of the Project *

Please enter a dollar amount.

1534594

15. Is this a construction project? *

Please note that very few subcommittee accounts can be used for construction. You must verify that you selected an appropriate subcommittee account that can be used for construction and that your request meets all of the subcommittee's criteria.

Yes

16. Project Purpose *

This should be a short description of your project's purpose. This information will appear in public disclosures.

The Avenue A Streetscape Improvement Project will restore an ADA compliant, pedestrian-oriented streetscape in the Turners Falls village center. Located within an Environmental Justice Area, Avenue A is Montague's retail, dining, and entertainment center, and a state-designated Cultural District. This bid-ready project would complete improvements to the North End of the Avenue A Streetscape, replacing aged and heaving brick sidewalks with a new brick and cement concourse designed to enhance longevity and accessibility. New traffic signals and pedestrian-scale lighting will enhance safety, accessibility, visual appeal and walkability, consistent with the Town's Livability, COVID "Rapid Recovery" and ADA Transition plans.

Fundamentally, this project will accelerate progress on a long-term priority of the Town of Montague to create a context in which residents and our small local business can thrive. Walkable centers of employment are particularly vital in areas of the Commonwealth that lack evening and weekend public transportation options, and small local businesses are the lifeblood of a community that lacks the profit margin that appeals to well-capitalized investors. This project is intended to propel our community forward, increasing equitable opportunity, accessibility, and the economic prospects of a community that was profoundly impacted by the pandemic and its requisite conditions/restrictions.

17. Justification Statement *

Fully describe and justify the request, including why the request is an appropriate use of federal taxpayer dollars and the specific information requested by the subcommittee.

The Avenue A Streetscape Improvement Project will complete improvements to the North End of Avenue A in Turners Falls, the largest - and most economically challenged - area in the Town of Montague. From many standpoints, downtown Turners Falls is the center of our community's economic, civic, social, and cultural life. This is a community that has struggled and progressed over the past two decades to emerge as an interesting and still-affordable place for aspiring people and families to live. Although the pandemic left us in many respects battered, there is strong belief in the resilience of this community and in the value of a catalyzing investment in our downtown. This project is an appropriate use of federal funds from at least three distinct standpoints...

1. This project is consistent with federal goals for economic recovery, social and economic equity, and accessibility. It directly impacts business sectors hardest hit by COVID, in an Environmental Justice Area, and facilitates access to essential government and other services.

2. This bid-ready project would dramatically accelerate streetscape improvements and progress toward those goals, avoiding the cost and time inefficiency of pursuing improvements piecemeal over many years. It can absolutely be implemented within the allowable time frame and is a self-contained project without ongoing cost.

3. This project is known to align with the priorities of Housing and Urban Development, whose CDBG Grant program has funded similar improvements at a smaller scale, including some that are encompassed within the North End of Avenue A and are integral to this project's objectives. Funding of this major project will allow the Town to pursue and deploy future CDBG and other grant resources to wastewater and other critical infrastructure, housing rehabilitation/development, and human services-related initiatives.

Finally, it is worth noting that Montague's municipal government has a strong track record of successful implementation of major projects. This is well within our ability to complete in a timely fashion and is part of a broader community and economic development strategy.

18. Is this a one-time request for Congressional Directed Support and will the CDS funding be spent in FY2023? *

Please note that multi-year earmarks are not eligible for funding.

Yes

19. Is additional federal funding required, beyond the sources identified in the budget submitted? When and how will the project become self-sustaining? *

The components of the work described in this proposal complement and complete improvements that have already been made and/or are in the process of construction or bid preparation. The total cost of the rehabilitation of sidewalks and traffic signals, and addition of pedestrian-scale lighting on the North End of Avenue A is projected to be \$1,534,594. The costs not included in this request include \$559,594 in previously awarded FY20 and FY21 CDBG grant project funding. The FY20 grant is currently under construction, with the FY21 grant expected to be bid this spring and completed by Fall 2022. This CDS request would fund completion of the remaining portions of the North End of Avenue A.

Note that Montague has previously used \$1.2M in CDBG grants, \$90,000 in MA Office on Disability grants, and \$66,737 in MA Complete Streets grants to make improvements to the larger and immediately adjacent Avenue A corridor. This has been accomplished over the course of several years and allows us now to prioritize the North End of Avenue.

20. Was this request submitted to another member of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation? *

Yes

20.1 Which members?

Senator Ed Markey, Congressman Jim McGovern (MA-02),

21. Was this project request submitted to Senator Warren and/or Senator Markey in the FY2022 Congressionally Directed Spending Process? *

No

22. Did this project receive congressionally directed funding in FY2022? *

No

22.1 Please list the relevant Senate Appropriations bill and the allocated amount of funding.

No answer.

Section 2. Massachusetts and National Benefits

1. Please provide a description of the request's importance to Massachusetts and/or the local community. *

The strength of the Commonwealth lies in the vitality of its municipalities. The Town of Montague, located in Franklin County, typifies both the opportunity and challenge faced by former industrial communities in the state's northwestern corridor. Montague's Turners Falls village center is renowned for its evolution from a declining industrial center to a vibrant community. At its heart is Avenue A, which is the setting for an arts, dining, and entertainment economy that has been carefully cultivated. A truly unique and important place, the Turners Falls downtown has the distinction of being both an Environmental Justice Area and a State designated Cultural District.

The health and vibrance of our downtown economy is both treasured and fragile. Incomes and property values in Franklin County substantially lag those of the state overall and that is most evident in Turners Falls. This economic disadvantage, coupled with substantial population loss in the broader region, leave this economic and cultural center particularly vulnerable to economic crises. The pandemic severely damaged our downtown economy and the economic lives of our downtown residents; who are resilient, but also disproportionately disadvantaged economically.

We believe Montague is poised for recovery and that the Commonwealth desperately needs aspiring communities like Montague to thrive, particularly in western Massachusetts. The Commonwealth is stronger if all of its regions are actively moving toward prosperity and Turners Falls – an urban village that plays the role as a de facto Gateway City in our region – is central to the region's prosperity.

This modest investment in the Avenue A Streetscape Improvement Project would help transform our downtown's physical landscape, enhancing the appeal of existing businesses and entertainment venues and attracting new investment to restore those that have closed. It would create economic opportunity and restore jobs lost in a village center surrounded by affordable housing with only limited access to public transportation (no night or weekend service). It would also improve accessibility throughout the north end of the downtown corridor, improving access to Town Hall and the MA DCR's Discovery Center. Further, it would uplift the immediate neighborhood, which is home to many of our most vulnerable residents.

This project is good for Montague and it is good for Massachusetts. It aligns with our shared goals of rapid recovery in the wake of COVID; of creating opportunity in low-income communities; and of improving the accessibility of public and private services. It would accomplish in what year what would otherwise require several years – perhaps a decade – of CDBG funded projects. The Commonwealth needs communities such as Montague to prosper and rebuild their working age populations and this is a time and cost-efficient approach to progressing toward that goal.

2. Please list any entities or organizations partnering in or supporting the project. *

Montague is working with the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, which is overseeing construction of current CDBG-funded improvements that complement this project. FCHRA operates many affordable housing units on and in the immediate vicinity of Avenue A.

The project is a critical priority of the Montague Selectboard and has the support of local businesses, the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Franklin County Community Development Corporation, Shea Theater, Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and State Representative Natalie Blais and Senator Jo Comerford. State grants funded Montague's COVID Rapid Recovery and ADA Transition plans, which call for these improvements.

Section 3. Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Requests

[Full Guidance](#)

1. Is this proposal for funds available in the Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration and Rural Development bill? *

[Subcommittee Guidance](#)

No

1.1 Please identify which account.

No answer.

2. Is this proposal for funds available in the Commerce, Justice, Science bill? *

[Subcommittee Guidance](#)

No

2.1 Please identify which account.

No answer.

3. Is this proposal for funds available in the Energy & Water Development bill? *[Subcommittee Guidance](#)

No

3.1 Please identify which account.*No answer.***4. Is this proposal for funds available in the Financial Services and General Government bill? ***[Subcommittee Guidance](#)

No

4.1 Please identify which account.*No answer.***5. Is this proposal for funds available in the Homeland Security bill? ***[Subcommittee Guidance](#)

No

5.1 Please identify which account.*No answer.***6. Is this proposal for funds available in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill? ***[Subcommittee Guidance](#)

No

6.1 Please identify which account.*No answer.***7. Is this proposal for funds available in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill? ***[Subcommittee Guidance](#)

No

7.1 Please identify which account.*No answer.***8. Is this proposal for funds available in the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies bill? ***[Subcommittee Guidance](#)

No

8.1 Please identify which account.*No answer.***9. Is this proposal for funds available in the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies bill? ***[Subcommittee Guidance](#)

Yes

9.1 Please identify which account.

“Community Development Fund” for “Economic Development Initiatives (EDI)” eligible under chapter 69 of title 42, United States Code

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Montague-Turners Falls Avenue A Streetscape Improvement Project

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15. Justification and Budget Statement *

Fully describe and justify the request, including a detailed budget and funding summary, including why the request is an appropriate use of federal taxpayer dollars, and any other specific information requested by the subcommittee in their guidance.

JUSTIFICATION

The Avenue A Streetscape Improvement Project will complete improvements to the North End of Avenue A in Turners Falls, the largest - and most economically challenged - area in the Town of Montague. From many standpoints, downtown Turners Falls is the center of our community's economic, civic, social, and cultural life. This is a community that has struggled and progressed over the past two decades to emerge as an interesting and still-affordable place for aspiring people and families to live. Although the pandemic left us in many respects battered, there is strong belief in the resilience of this community and in the value of a catalyzing investment in our downtown. This project is an appropriate use of federal funds from at least three distinct standpoints...

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It is worth noting that Montague's municipal government has a strong track record of successful implementation of major projects. This is well within our ability to complete in a timely fashion and is part of a broader community and economic development strategy.

BUDGET

A detailed line item construction budget is available on the website that supports this request at <https://www.montague-ma.gov/p/1500/Avenue-A-Streetscape-Improvement-Project-FY23-CDS-Earmark-Request>. Following is an abbreviated view of the budget.

The components of the work described in this proposal complement and complete improvements to the North End of Avenue A that have already been made or are in the process of construction or bid preparation. The total cost of the rehabilitation of sidewalks and traffic signals, and addition of pedestrian-scale lighting on the North End of Avenue A is projected to be \$1,534,594. The costs not included in this request include \$559,594 in previously awarded FY20 and FY21 CDBG grants. The FY20 grant is currently under construction, with the FY21 grant expected to be bid this spring. The Town will use staff resources to manage procurement and construction management, expected to be in the vicinity of \$25,000, and is not requesting funding for that purpose.

Construction Budget

GENERAL MOBILIZATION \$28,000

DEMOLITION \$43,055

EARTHWORK/SITE PREPARATION \$3,900

SITE DRAINAGE and UTILITIES \$91,400

PAVING and SITE IMPROVEMENTS \$520,273.75

Sub-Total \$686,628.75

15% Contractor O+P \$102,994.31

15% Contingency \$102,994.31

12% inflation \$82,395.45

TOTAL CONSTRUCTION \$975,012.83

The above budget is subject to inflation escalator due to the design cost having been last updated in December 2020, however, current FY21 CDBG funded project bids came in within those estimates in February 2022. We believe it is an accurate representation of the projected costs. The project is potentially scalable if full funding is not provided.

16. Project Website

Provide only if available. However, a project website is a requirement for several appropriations accounts such as THUD and we strongly encourage you to create a project website for your request.

<https://www.montague-ma.gov/p/1500/Avenue-A-Streetscape-Improvement-Project-FY23-CDS-Earmark-Request>

17. Does this project meet the necessary criteria as outlined in the relevant CDS Subcommittee Guidance? *

CDS Subcommittee Guidance criteria can be found [here](#). It is critical that applicants follow all subcommittee guidance and criteria in order to be eligible for funding. Ineligible and/or incomplete requests will not be funded by the Appropriations Committee.

Yes

Section 4. Location of the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Activity

1. Project City *

Town of Montague

2. Project State *

A project must at least be partially located in Massachusetts for Senator Warren to consider the request.

MA

3. Project Country *

United States of America

Section 5. Submitting Organization Point of Contact Information

1. Submitting Organization Name *

This information will appear in public disclosures.

Town of Montague

2. Submitting Organization Point Of Contact (POC) Name *

Steven Ellis

3. Submitting Organization Point Of Contact (POC) Title *

Town Administrator

4. Submitting Organization Point Of Contact (POC) Phone *

If possible, please provide a mobile number.

413-863-3200

5. Submitting Organization Point Of Contact (POC) Email Address *

townadmin@montague-ma.gov

6. Submitting Organization Point Of Contact (POC) Mailing Address Line 1 *

Montague Town Hall

7. Submitting Organization Point Of Contact (POC) Mailing Address Line 2 *

One Avenue A

8. Submitting Organization Point Of Contact (POC) City *

Turners Falls

9. Submitting Organization Point Of Contact (POC) State *

MA

10. Submitting Organization Point Of Contact (POC) Zip Code *

01376

