

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: City of Houston

STATE: TX

PROJECT TITLE : EECBG Program - City of Houston, TX

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOZ-0000013	DE-EE0000965	GFO-0000965-001	GO965

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy or water (a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

Rational for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy is proposing to provide federal funding to the City of Houston, Texas under the DOE's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). The City of Houston proposes to use \$1,443,369 to install B-Cycle bicycle sharing stations and two-way bike lane striping throughout the city.

The City of Houston proposed to install 20 B-Cycle stations both bolted and non-bolted supported by Solar and A/C power. This NEPA determination does not apply to two of the 20 proposed locations, as they fall near or within a 100-year floodplain and require further NEPA review. The locations are #10 (Sabine Bridge) and #11 (University of Houston, Downtown).

The B-Cycle stations would be configured as a single or double-sided station. The station would lock the bicycle at the hub, using two robust locking mechanisms to double secure the bicycle. All bikes would be equipped with Radio Frequency Identification and GPS technology and are specially designed for all riders. A small kiosk like stand, attached to each station would allow walk-up users to purchase memberships, check in/out and provide the nearest bike/dock availability. B-Cycle stations have been tested for extreme temperatures, excessive vibration and moisture and they are wind rated to 150 Mph.

The 18 proposed locations are along major thoroughfares of the city, on previously disturbed land in downtown Houston. Of the 18 stations, three would be double sided, 15 would be single sided; two would be non-bolted, 16 would be bolted; 14 would be solar powered, four would be A/C powered. The station sizes range from approximately 15 ft. 6 in. long and 5 ft. 8 in. wide to 36 ft. 2 in. long and 8 ft. 6 in. wide, all with zinc-dipped powder coated steel

bases. Each station can hold between nine and 23 bicycles. The solar powered units would be supported by a 135 watt panel with dual battery backup.

Three of the proposed locations are within close proximity to a historic building and/or historic district. In a letter dated 11/27/2012, the Texas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) determined 'no adverse effect' on National Register-eligible or listed properties for the three proposed bicycle sharing locations.

The City of Houston proposes to install two-way bike lane striping on four streets in the downtown area. The streets in include Milam, Austin, Polk and Walker including connections to Midtown and EaDo (Houston's area east of downtown). Each lane would measure five ft. from the curb. Milam and Austin are north to south streets that traverse all of downtown. Polk and Walker are east to west streets that traverse all of downtown.

The City of Houston is designated nonattainment for the eight-hour ozone National Ambient air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and one-hour ozone NAAQS. Due to the minimal amount of construction expected, the nature of the project and the expected decrease in air emissions from the proposed bicycle sharing stations, DOE has determined that the bicycle sharing stations and lane striping would not have any adverse impacts to emission levels of ozone.

The proposed project would be installed at existing locations, in areas that have been previously disturbed. The proposed bicycle sharing stations and lane striping would not have adverse effects on threatened and endangered species, floodplains and wetlands, as these resources are not known to occur at the proposed site.

This NEPA determination does not apply to stations #10 (Sabine Bridge) and #11 (University of Houston, Downtown) as these two stations fall within a 100-year floodplain and require further NEPA review.

Based on the review of project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that the installation of the proposed bicycle sharing stations and lane striping would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions B5.1, "actions to conserve energy," and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

#10 (Sabine Bridge) and #11 (University of Houston, Downtown)

This restriction does not preclude you from:

#1 (Bayou Place), #2 (Dallas and Smith St.), #3 (1600 Smith), #4 (YMCA @ Pease and Milam), #5 (Center Point), #6 (Dallas and Main St.), #7 (One Park Place), #8 (McKinny and San Jacinto), #9 (Main and Capitol Rusk), #12 (W. Gray and Baldwin), #13 (Elgin and Louisiana), #14 (Main St. and Berry), #15 (Westheimer and Waughcrest), #18 (Stanford and Westheimer), #19 (MFA), #20 (Zoo Plaza), *(Herman Park), and #21 (St. Emmanuel and Rusk).

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

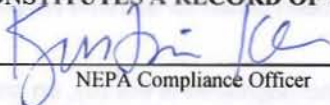
Note to Specialist :

Kelly Daigle 12/11/2012

Total Project Cost: \$1,443,369

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 12/12/2012

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION