



RESOLUTION TITLE: RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CITY OF GASTONIA'S APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S 2023 RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS (RCN) PROGRAM

- WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation's ("USDOT") Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods ("RCN") Program provides grant funding for planning and capital construction to address infrastructure barriers, restore community connectivity, and improve peoples' lives; and,
- WHEREAS, Project CHANGE – Connecting Highland: Access, Neighborhood Growth, Equity, a.k.a. the Downtown Gastonia Reconnector Project, was identified as a project in the NC-7 Corridor Study and Plan, completed in January 2018 by the City of Gastonia and the Gaston Economic Development Commission; and,
- WHEREAS, Gaston County supports the City of Gastonia's application seeking a RCN Grant from USDOT to complete a feasibility study to cap the railroad ditch that runs through Downtown Gastonia, which creates a barrier to mobility, connectivity, access, and economic development to the transportation disadvantaged communities to the north; and,
- WHEREAS, over the last 30 years, the decline of the neighborhoods north of the railroad corridor are a direct indication of the lack of connectivity and accessibility; and,
- WHEREAS, this project is imperative as the City of Gastonia, along with many community partners, strive to address and reduce the inequities that the railroad ditch has caused in the neighborhoods to the north, hampering mobility and community connectivity; and,
- WHEREAS, the feasibility study will address issues including physical mobility and connectivity, as well as community needs and identity, health disparity, race and social equity, and economic development potential; and,
- WHEREAS, the City of Gastonia and community partners are working together to shape a community where everyone can thrive by advancing equity and inclusion and dismantling systemic inequities; and,
- WHEREAS, the City of Gastonia is committed to collaborating with community partners to facilitate a coordinated and innovative approach to this work; and,
- WHEREAS, Project CHANGE is transformational and RCN funding is critical to advance this project by the completion of a feasibility study to understand the technical and financial feasibilities of capping

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I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

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TRANSPORTATION'S 2023 RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS (RCN)
PROGRAM

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the railroad ditch while looking to maximize public benefits by way of better mobility and connectivity, and assessing various development opportunities; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby declares support for the City of Gastonia's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2023 RCN Program to complete a feasibility study for Project CHANGE.

Adopted this 22nd day of August, 2023.

Chad Brown, Chairman

ATTEST:

Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board

Certificate

The undersigned duly qualified Clerk of Gaston County certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Gaston County Board of Commissioners held on the 22nd day of August, 2023.

Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board Date

(SEAL)