



RESOLUTION TITLE: RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CITY OF GASTONIA APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S 2022 RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PILOT (RCP) GRANT PROGRAM

- WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation's ("USDOT") Reconnecting Communities Pilot ("RCP") Discretionary Grant Program provides technical assistance and grant funding for planning and capital construction to address infrastructure barriers, restore community connectivity, and improve peoples' lives; and,
- WHEREAS, 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 County Economic Development Commission; and,
- WHEREAS, Gaston County supports the City of Gastonia application seeking a RCP Grant from the 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, the Downtown Gastonia Reconnector Project is transformational and RCP funding is critical to advance this project by the completion of a feasibility study to understand the technical and financial feasibilities of capping the railroad ditch while looking to maximize public benefits by way of better mobility and connectivity, and assessing various development opportunities.

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

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:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	AFraley	BHovis	KJohnson	TKelgher	TPhilbeck	RWorley	Vote
2022-276	09/27/2022	AF	TK	A	A	A	A	A	AB	A	U

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RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CITY OF GASTONIA APPLICATION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S 2022 RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PILOT (RCP) GRANT
PROGRAM

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby declares support for the City of Gastonia application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2022 RCP Grant Program to complete a feasibility study for the Downtown Gastonia Reconnector Project.

Adopted this 27th day of September, 2022.


Chad Brown, Chairman
Gaston County Board of Commissioners

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 27th day of September, 2022.


Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board

(seal)

9/27/2022
Date



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

County Manager

Board Action

File #: 22-396

Commissioners Keigher and Johnson - County Manager - To Support the City of Gastonia Application to U.S. Department of Transportation's 2022 Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Grant Program

STAFF CONTACT

Dr. Kim Eagle - County Manager - 704-866-3101

BUDGET IMPACT

N/A

BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

N/A

BACKGROUND

The City of Gastonia is seeking community support for their application to the U.S Department of Transportation's 2022 Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Grant Program 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. 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. Postcard images from before the railroad was ditched show a level of development equal to that along Main Avenue today, but unfortunately, the character of this area today has been completely altered from its previous self. The range of uses that once thrived to the north of the rail corridor point to a vital and active collection of urban, mixed use neighborhoods. 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 community partners including the Gaston County Economic Development Commission. The Downtown Gastonia Reconnector Project is transformational and RCP funding is critical to advance this project by the completion of a feasibility study to understand the technical and financial feasibilities of capping the railroad ditch while looking to maximize public benefits by way of better mobility and connectivity, and assessing various development opportunities.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Discretionary Grant Program provides technical assistance and grant funding for planning and capital construction to address infrastructure barriers, restore community connectivity, and improve peoples' lives. Funds for the FY 2022 RCP Program are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that reconnect communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, including to mobility, access, or economic

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2022-276	09/27/2022	AF	TK	A	A	A	A	A	AB	A	U

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A=AYE, N=NAY, AB=ABSENT, ABS=ABSTAIN, U=UNANIMOUS

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development. In FY 2022, USDOT may award up to \$50 million for eligible public engagement, feasibility studies, and other planning activities. The maximum RCP Planning Grant award is \$2 million. The City of Gastonia application must be submitted by Thursday, October 13, 2022.

The County Manager is requesting approval of this Board Action and the attached Resolution to Support the City of Gastonia application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2022 RCP Grant Program to complete a feasibility study for the Downtown Gastonia Reconnector Project.

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution