

## City Council – Action Request Form

**Date:** September 18, 2023

**To:** Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

**From:** Aaron King, Assistant City Manager  
Jeff Fansler, Director of Transportation

**Council Action Requested:**

Resolution of Support for Piedmont Triad Regional Council's "Bridging the 52 Divide" Application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program

**Strategic Focus Area:** Quality Transportation

**Strategic Objective:** N/A

**Strategic Plan Action Item:** N/A

**Key Work Item:** N/A



**Summary of Information:**

The Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) and Creative Corridors Coalition (CCC) are applying for a planning grant to the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program. PTRC is the lead applicant; CCC is a co-applicant for this request. The application titled "Bridging the 52 Divide" intends to provide for extensive public outreach and input, planning, feasibility, and the development of preliminary conceptual designs for enhancements to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Street bridges over Highway 52. These bridges are scheduled for replacement by NCDOT, with construction expected to begin in 2026.

During last year's application cycle, the Mayor signed a letter of support for the request and the City Manager authorized a \$20,000 contribution toward the match. PTRC has revised their submittal for this year's cycle and are again requesting a letter of support along with a local match of \$30,000. The total project cost for this first phase is \$733,700.

On February 27, 2023, City Council adopted a resolution that restricted the addition of new capital projects including restrictions on new "project planning services." This resolution was

**Committee Action:**

**Committee** \_\_\_\_\_ **Action** \_\_\_\_\_

**For** \_\_\_\_\_ **Against** \_\_\_\_\_

**Remarks:** \_\_\_\_\_

brought forward and adopted as a recognition of dire staffing levels, especially within Public Works departments. The intent of this resolution was to require City Council to approve any new additions to Tiers 1 and 2 and to subsequently find a project with commensurate levels of staff time to remove or delay- essentially offsetting any newly added projects. Staff time needed to assist with the "Bridging the 52 Divide" was not included in Tiers 1 or 2. In review of current DOT projects within Tiers 1 and 2, there are no feasible projects to remove or delay to accommodate the addition of this new request. However, given the nature of this first phase being largely focused on community engagement, outreach, and visioning, staff in the Neighborhood Services department will support the outreach work and oversight of the 'Bridging the 52 Divide' planning grant if awarded."

In summary, the attached resolution would authorize the following:

- (1) A letter of support for the "Bridging the 52 Divide" grant application
- (2) Approval of the requested \$30,000 local match
- (3) Use of staff outside of DOT to participate in the "Bridging the 52 Divide" initiative

It should also be noted that approval of the attached resolution does not bind or obligate the City to fund or commit staff time to future phases of the project. Requests for funding and additional staff would have to be evaluated thoroughly and should be vetted through the City's annual Capital Project Budget review. Final approval of future staff time or financial contributions to the project would be subject to City Council approval.