



City of Winston-Salem City Council  
**Council Agenda Item Summary**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Resolution to Approve the Advancement of Betterments Related to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Replacement Project at the Request of the Creative Corridors Coalition</b>
City Council Committee	Public Works Committee
Meeting Date	June 9, 2026
Staff Lead (Presenter)	Jeff Fansler, Director of Transportation
Department Head	Jeff Fansler, Director of Transportation
City Manager/ACM	Aaron King, ACM

**Agenda Item Summary**

Recommended Council Action	Resolution Approval
Suggested Action/ Motion Options	Move approval of the Resolution to Advance the 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , and 5 <sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Replacement Project to Include Betterments at the Request of the Creative Corridors Coalition
Strategic Focus Area	Community Advocacy and Engagement
Strategic Plan Objective	CAE4: Engaging Residents and Fostering Civic Pride
Anticipated Fiscal Impact	Fiscal Impact Anticipated: See Analysis in Summary

**Summary of Information**

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is advancing project HB-0031, a coordinated initiative to replace the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Street bridges over US 52 in Winston-Salem. These structures are NCDOT bridges that carry City-maintained streets, serving as important east–west connections across the major highway. As part of this project, the Winston-Salem Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and NCDOT have evaluated design options for the Fourth Street Bridge. City Council formally approved the Fourth Street Bridge as a multi-modal vehicular bridge in late 2025, confirming the City’s preference for maintaining vehicular access.

A central guiding document for this corridor is the Creative Corridors Visionary Master Plan, an adopted plan that identifies the bridges over US 52 as key civic infrastructure intended to reconnect neighborhoods, enhance the city’s gateways, and elevate the architectural character of major transportation corridors. Within this plan, the Fourth Street Bridge is designated as a “Signature Bridge,” underscoring its importance in re-establishing a strong physical and symbolic link between the Center of the City and East Winston. The plan emphasizes the integration of the GAIN principles—Green,



**Vision:** To be a premier city in the region providing world-class amenities while retaining a sense of charm and hospitality  
**Mission:** To provide impactful services that enhance the quality of life for current and future generations  
**Values:** Teamwork \* Responsibility \* Respect \* Integrity \* Customer Service

Artful, Iconic, and Network—to create infrastructure that is functional, beautiful, and community-defining.

Representatives from the Creative Corridors Coalition have expressed strong interest in ensuring that HB-0031 advances in a manner consistent with the adopted master plan. They have requested that the City incorporate betterments that reflect the GAIN principles and reinforce the Fourth Street Bridge’s role as a Signature Bridge while enhancing all three bridges above the NCDOT standard.

WSDOT has worked collaboratively with the Creative Corridors Coalition to develop a preliminary list of potential betterments for Council consideration. These enhancements could be considered with the project if Council authorizes WSDOT to formally submit them to NCDOT for evaluation. Potential betterments include, but are not limited to:

- Decorative retaining walls — architectural treatments that elevate the bridge’s substructure
- Parapet and bridge girder enhancements — aesthetic upgrades to highly visible structural elements, particularly from the US 52 vantage
- Protected bicycle lanes — improved multimodal safety and comfort
- Decorative noise barriers — visually enhanced barriers
- Enhanced landscaping — plantings and/or hardscaped that reinforce the principles of the master plan
- Architectural fencing — cohesive design elements that improve safety and appearance
- Decorative Lighting — Pedestrian scale lighting that improve safety and visibility

While NCDOT will deliver the base bridge replacements, any selected betterments will be the financial responsibility of the City of Winston-Salem. If Council supports pursuing these enhancements, WSDOT will work with NCDOT to incorporate them into the project’s design development and prepare a detailed cost estimate for future Council review and approval.

WSDOT now seeks Council direction on whether to advance the proposed betterments for NCDOT’s consideration as part of the HB-0031 project.

### **Analysis of Fiscal Impact**

Incorporating project betterments into the HB-0031 bridge replacements will create future financial obligations for the City of Winston-Salem beyond the base NCDOT project. While NCDOT will fund and construct the standard bridge replacements, all aesthetic, multimodal, or design-enhancement betterments requested by the City will require a separate funding commitment.

Because the Creative Corridors Visionary Master Plan emphasizes high-quality design and the integration of the GAIN principles, the potential betterments identified by WSDOT and the Creative Corridors Coalition—such as decorative retaining walls, enhanced parapets and girders, protected bike lanes, decorative noise barriers, enhanced landscaping, and architectural fencing—would require the City to allocate capital funds for their design and construction.

In addition to the initial capital outlay, these enhancements will create substantial ongoing operating and maintenance responsibilities for the City. Elements such as specialized landscaping, architectural treatments, decorative surfaces, and protected bicycle facilities typically require higher-frequency maintenance, specialized materials, and long-term asset management. These recurring costs will need to be incorporated into future operating budgets for the departments responsible for streets, vegetation management, and facility upkeep.

At this stage, the fiscal impact cannot be fully quantified until NCDOT evaluates the betterments and provides cost estimates. If Council supports advancing the betterments, WSDOT will coordinate with NCDOT to develop detailed capital cost estimates and long-term maintenance projections for future Council consideration and approval

**Attachments**  
Presentation

Committee Action	PW 6/9/2026
For:	Against:
Remarks: Unanimous Approved	