

## Information Item

**Date:** November 7, 2022

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

**From:** Aaron King, Assistant City Manager  
Toneq' McCullough, P.E., Director of Transportation

**Subject:**

Information on 2022 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Discretionary Grant Application

**Strategic Focus Area:** Quality Transportation

**Strategic Objective:** No

**Strategic Plan Action Item:** No

**Key Work Item:** No



The City of Winston-Salem has been asked to support the Piedmont Triad Regional Council and Creative Corridors Coalition's joint planning grant application, "Bridging the 52 Divide in Winston-Salem, NC", through the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Discretionary Grant Program. The planning grant will explore opportunities for enhancing the bridges on Third, Fourth, and Fifth Streets across US 52 and reinventing the adjacent streets to enhance safety and access for all users.

The construction of US 52, and historic practices of redlining, have created lasting legacies that limit the citizens of East Winston and other communities east of US 52 from accessing opportunities in downtown Winston-Salem. The communities immediately to the east of US 52 are several times more likely to travel by foot, bicycle, or transit than most other communities in the city. Communities east of US 52 face higher rates of poverty, health inequities, and are less likely to have reliable internet access at home when compared with city or statewide averages. By revising Third, Fourth, and Fifth Streets and Bridges as safer, more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly corridors, the Piedmont Triad Regional Council and Creative Corridors Coalition will complete an important first step toward the eventual redesign and reconnection of communities with opportunities in our vibrant downtown.

In the spirit of reconnecting communities, the City of Winston-Salem is committing up to \$20,000 as a local match toward the Piedmont Triad Regional Council and Creative Corridors Coalition's joint efforts to envision the redesign of Third, Fourth, and Fifth Street bridges and streets crossing US 52 through the planning grant. The City of Winston-Salem's contribution towards the required matching funds for the grant (\$20,000) will be taken from available appropriations in the FY 22-23 WSDOT general fund operating budget.