

## Information Item

**Date:** September 12, 2023

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

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

**Subject:**

Presentation – Piedmont Triad Regional Council’s “Bridging the 52 Divide” Application to the United States Department of Transportation’s Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program and City Consideration of a Support Letter and Local Match Contribution.

**Strategic Focus Area:** Quality Transportation

**Strategic Objective:** N/A

**Strategic Plan Action Item:** No

**Key Work Item:** No



The Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) and Creative Corridors Coalition are applying for a planning grant to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program (RCN). The application, entitled “Bridging the 52 Divide,” intends to provide for extensive public outreach and input, planning, feasibility, and the development of preliminary conceptual designs to supplement the programmed replacement of Third, Fourth, and Fifth Street bridges over US 52. The grant would result in a community action plan and report with cost estimates, project phase proposals, funding strategy, and maintenance strategies for the proposals.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Third, Fourth, and Fifth Street bridge replacement project over US 52 is programmed in the 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program (HB-0031) and is currently scheduled for a ROW year of 2025 and construction year of 2026. This schedule is subject to change.

Viewing the scheduled bridge replacements as an opportunity to create improved multimodal connections for all users, the PTRC and Creative Corridors are pursuing a planning grant that would explore opportunities to provide enhancements to improve connectivity and access to transportation options over U.S. Highway 52 in Winston-Salem.

During last year’s application cycle for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCP), the City Manager and Mayor signed a Letter of Support authorizing a \$20,000 contribution toward the match. The FY22 application was unsuccessful but received USDOT’s highest recommendation.

With substantial revisions to the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program and application criteria, PTRC has rescoped the application and will submit an updated application for the FY23 cycle. The application is expected to request \$586,960 (or 80%) toward a total project cost of \$733,700.

The City of Winston-Salem is being asked to consider a local match in the amount of \$30,000 and to provide a letter of support for the Piedmont Triad Regional Council’s application.

A map of the proposed study area for the planning grant is attached.