

INTRODUCED: February 26, 2024

A RESOLUTION No. 2024-R009

To express the City Council’s support for the City’s participation in the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration’s Bridge Investment Program for the purpose of funding the City’s Lombardy Street CSX Bridge Replacement project.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrons – Mayor Stoney, Ms. Jordan, Mr. Addison, Vice President Lambert,  
Ms. Robertson and Ms. Lynch

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as to form and legality  
by the City Attorney  
\_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC HEARING: MAR 11 2024 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, upon the information and belief of the Council, the City’s participation in the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration’s Bridge Investment Program would provide funding for the City’s Lombardy Street CSX Bridge Replacement project; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that it is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the Council support the City’s participation in the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration’s Bridge Investment Program;

NOW, THEREFORE,

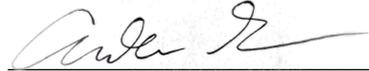
AYES:            7            NOES:            0            ABSTAIN:            \_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTED:   MAR 11 2024   REJECTED: \_\_\_\_\_ STRICKEN: \_\_\_\_\_

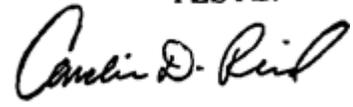
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That the Council hereby expresses its support for the City's participation in the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's Bridge Investment Program for the purpose of funding the City's Lombardy CSX Bridge Replacement project and, to the extent permitted by law, commits to provide the minimum 20 percent matching funds if the project is approved for funding.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney's Office

**A TRUE COPY:  
TESTE:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk



# City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street  
2nd Floor of City Hall  
Richmond, VA 23219  
www.rva.gov

## Master

**File Number: Admin-2024-0138**

**File ID:** Admin-2024-0138

**Type:** Request for Ordinance or Resolution

**Status:** Regular Agenda

**Version:** 1

**Reference:**

**In Control:** City Clerk Waiting Room

**Department:**

**Cost:**

**File Created:** 02/13/2024

**Subject:**

**Final Action:**

<b>Title:</b>
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**Internal Notes:**

**Code Sections:**

**Agenda Date:** 02/26/2024

**Indexes:**

**Agenda Number:**

**Patron(s):**

**Enactment Date:**

**Attachments:** Admin-2024-0138 Resolution - BIP - CSX Bridge AATF

**Enactment Number:**

**Contact:**

**Introduction Date:**

**Drafter:** John.Kim@rva.gov

**Effective Date:**

**Related Files:**

### Approval History

Version	Seq #	Action Date	Approver	Action	Due Date
1	1	2/13/2024	M.S. Khara	Approve	2/15/2024
1	2	2/13/2024	Gail Johnson	Approve	2/15/2024
1	3	2/13/2024	Bobby Vincent - FYI	Notified - FYI	
1	4	2/13/2024	Robert Steidel - FYI	Notified - FYI	
1	5	2/13/2024	Adam Hohl - FYI	Notified - FYI	
1	6	2/13/2024	Jeff Gray	Approve	2/15/2024
1	7	2/13/2024	Lincoln Saunders	Delegated	
<b>Notes:</b> Delegated: Out Of Office					
1	8	2/13/2024	Sabrina Joy-Hogg	Approve	2/15/2024
1	9	2/14/2024	Mayor Stoney	Approve	2/29/2024

### History of Legislative File

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<b>Ver- sion:</b>	<b>Acting Body:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Action:</b>	<b>Sent To:</b>	<b>Due Date:</b>	<b>Return Date:</b>	<b>Result:</b>
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Text of Legislative File Admin-2024-0138

# City of Richmond

## Intracity Correspondence

**O&R Transmittal**

**DATE:** February 13, 2024

**TO:** The Honorable Members of City Council

**THROUGH:** The Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Mayor

**THROUGH:** J.E. Lincoln Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer

**THROUGH:** Bobby Vincent Jr.; Director of Public Works

**FROM:** M.S. Khara, P.E.; City Engineer

**RE:** TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FEDERAL ‘BRIDGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (BIP)’ GRANT PROGRAM TO FUND THE LOMBARDY STREET OVER CSX BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

**ORD. OR RES. No.**

**PURPOSE:** To request the City Council’s approval for the City of Richmond participating and supporting the Lombardy Street over CSX Bridge Replacement project for the FY23/FY24 BIP grant application process and to commit to the 20% matching funds if the federal funding is approved for the project.

**BACKGROUND:** On December 20, 2023, the FHWA opened a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for up to \$9.62 billion in FYs 2023 through 2026 Bridge Project grant applications under the Bridge Investment Program. Bridge Project Grants under the Bridge Investment Program are available for bridges with total eligible project costs up to \$100 million, with minimum grant awards of \$2.5 million. The Bridge Investment Program is a competitive, discretionary program that focuses on existing bridges to reduce the overall number of bridges in poor condition, or in fair condition at risk of falling into poor condition.

Deadline of FY23/FY24 BIP Grant application is March 19, 2024. The grant award date is July 17, 2024 with funding available in late 2024. If the project is funded, the funds need to be obligated through September 30, 2027 and the selected project needs to be completed and funds expended by September 30, 2031. The bridge design is currently in 40% complete stage and anticipated to be completed in 2026. Construction begins in 2027 and completes in 2029, which is well aligned with the

grant schedule requirements.

The grant program provides 80% fund for the project as they require the City to provide a minimum of 20% matching fund. The total estimated cost of the Lombardy Street bridge replacement project is \$28.5 million. The secured fund to date is \$15.9 million and the funding gap is \$12.6 million. The City applies for the BIP grant to fill the funding gap of \$12.6 million. The BIP grant, if the project is selected, will provide \$10.1 million (80%) and the City will provide \$2.5 million (20% match). Under adopted FY24-FY28 CIP, the City has already approved \$4.0 million to be appropriated to the project using GO bond in FY27 (\$2.0 million) and FY28 (\$2.0 million), respectively which will be used towards the match.

The Lombardy Street Bridge Replacement project meets most of the required criteria of the BIP Grant. The criteria include (1) State of Good Repair; (2) Safety and Mobility; (3) Economic Competitiveness and Opportunity; (4) Climate Change, Sustainability, Resiliency, and the Environment; (5) Equity and Quality of Life; and (6) Innovation.

The BIP Grant application requires rigorous studies in technical, economic, environmental, and benefit-cost analyses. Therefore, the City is hiring a consultant to prepare and assist in submitting the grant application. Application preparation cost is estimated at \$70,000. Adopted FY24 DPW Bridge Special Funds will be utilized for funding this application preparation task.

The 91-year-old Lombardy Street Bridge provides a critical connection from the northern edge of the City of Richmond to the downtown commercial, residential and museum districts. Currently, the Lombardy Street carries 7,100 vehicles per day. This bridge crossing over CSXT is critical also to ensure no disruption to the approximately 20 trains per day including Amtrak that uses the tracks.

The bridge is posted to 15 tons and has a general condition rating of “3-poor condition” which identifies the bridge as Structurally Deficient (SD) as reported by the latest bridge safety inspection reports. The bridge is Functionally Obsolete as it does not accommodate bike and pedestrian traffic with the safety standards.

This project will provide critical safety improvements and enhance multimodal access along Lombardy Street from Leigh Street (Maggie Walker Governor’s School) to Virginia Union University and surrounding Northside communities. Improvements include constructing a protected bicycle and pedestrian connection along a load path redundant structure that meets current CSXT clearance requirements in the CSXT Criteria for Overhead Bridges and for future Federal High-Speed Rail between Washington DC and Richmond.

According to City records, the current Lombardy Street Bridge over CSX railroad was originally built by Seaboard Airline Railway c. 1901 to connect Lombardy Street over the then Seaboard Airline Railway and expanded by Seaboard Air Line RR c. 1932 to the current width. The City financially contributed to the 1930’s expansion of the bridge but ownership remained with the railroad. Additionally, City records indicate that the bridge does not appear to have been properly maintained by CSXT as documented by the periodic safety inspections and reduced load carrying capacity of the

bridge.

This project will add pedestrian accommodations and bicycle infrastructure for multimodal connectivity to existing bike lanes along Lombardy Street. This project will also improve the multimodal user experience and safety by adding pedestrian scale lighting and missing sidewalk as a continuation of the previously completed Lombardy Street streetscape and roundabout north of Admiral Street.

By providing the funding for this bridge replacement project, the new bridge structure will provide a low maintenance long-term solution to the City which will provide an expected lifespan of over 75 years to the City. In addition, by providing funding for the replacement project, this will remove a sub-standard vertical clearance bridge that will permit the planned Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor to use this corridor.

If funding for this project is not obtained and the bridge continues to deteriorate, in future years, it may severely restrict one of the important northside connection to downtown. This funding will allow the City to ensure that provides safe passage for the traveling public including ped/bike/vehicle/transit/truck deliveries over the heavily used Railway.

The total project cost is \$28.5 million. The presently secured fund is \$15.9 million, which includes \$3.1M Smart Scale, \$5.25M Revenue Sharing, \$2.5M CSX contribution, and 2.75M City GO bond, and \$2.33M SGR (State of Good Repair).

The intent of this resolution is to provide City Council authorization to participate in the 2023/2024 BIP Grant program and to commit 20% matching funds (which is already approved in adopted FY24-FY28 CIP budget) if the federal funding is awarded for the project.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** This project is a part of Richmond 300 Master Plan and Richmond Connects. Additional public engagement will be through the City Council Land Use Committee meeting and formal Council meeting on this Resolution.

**STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL:** This project conforms to Goal 8-Equitable Transportation in the Richmond 300 Master Plan by expanding and improving walking and biking infrastructure. No other governmental agency approval is required for the Resolution. UDC/CPC approval of the project will be required during project development phase.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** \$70,000 to prepare the grant application that is funded thru FY24 DPW Bridge Special Fund (Cost Center 02912). Additionally, the City is also responsible for the required 20% match (\$2.5 million) of the requested BIP Grant fund of \$10.1million (80%) for a total gap of funding of \$12.6 million. Adopted FY24-FY28 City CIP budgeted \$4,000,000 in FY27 thru FY28 which will be used towards the City match. If grant is awarded, the City will receive \$10.1million in federal funds for this project.

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon Adoption.

**REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE:** February 26, 2024.

**CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE:** March 11, 2024.

**REQUESTED AGENDA:** Consent Agenda.

**RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE:** Pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 2021 - R031, City Council Rules of Procedure, Article VI (B), City Council Committee Referral Excuse/Waiver is requested.

**AFFECTED AGENCIES:** Department of Public Works; Law Department; Planning and Development; Economic and Community Development; Department of Public Utilities; Finance Department; Budget and Strategic Planning; Copies also sent to: City Mayor (Levar M. Stoney); Chief Administrative Officer (J.E. Lincoln Saunders); Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Operation (Robert Steidel); and City Attorney (2).

**RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.:** None.

**ATTACHMENTS:** None.

**STAFF:** John S. Kim, P.E., Ph.D.; City Bridge Engineer 804-646-5684.  
Lamont L. Benjamin, P.E.; Capital Projects Administrator 804-646-6339.  
Thomas A. Westbrook, P.E.; Project Manager 804-646-3421.