

INTRODUCED: January 13, 2025

A RESOLUTION No. 2025-R008

To express City Council's support for the City's participation in the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity funding program for a Mayo Bridge replacement project.

Patron – Mayor Avula

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: JAN 27 2025 AT 6 P.M.

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 application for funding for a Mayo Bridge replacement project under the United States Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity program;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability

AYES: _____ NOES: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: _____ REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

and Equity funding program for a Mayo Bridge replacement project and, to the extent permitted by law, commits to the 20 percent matching funds if the project is approved for funding.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



City of Richmond

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

Master

File Number: Admin-2024-1547

File ID: Admin-2024-1547

Type: Request for Ordinance or Resolution

Status: Regular Agenda

Version: 1

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In Control: City Clerk

Department:

File Created: 12/17/2024

Subject:

Final Action:

Title: TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FEDERAL 'REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE)' GRANT PROGRAM TO FUND THE MAYO BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

Internal Notes:

Agenda Date: 01/13/2025

Patron(s):

Enactment Date:

Attachments: Admin-2024-1547 WD Resolution-Mayo Bridge 2025
USDOT RAISE Grant -AATF.pdf.pdf

Enactment Number:

Contact:

Introduction Date:

Drafter: Yongping.Wang@rva.gov

Effective Date:

Related Files:

Approval History

Version	Seq #	Action Date	Approver	Action	Due Date
1	1	12/17/2024	M.S. Khara	Approve	12/19/2024
1	2	12/17/2024	Bobby Vincent	Approve	12/19/2024
1	7	12/23/2024	Jeff Gray	Approve	12/19/2024
1	8	12/23/2024	Lincoln Saunders	Delegated	
Notes: Delegated: Out Of Office					
1	9	12/23/2024	Sabrina Joy-Hogg	Approve	12/25/2024
1	10	12/23/2024	Mayor Stoney	Approve	1/1/2025
1	11	1/9/2025	Mayor Avula	Approve	1/13/2025

History of Legislative File

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:

Text of Legislative File Admin-2024-1547

Title

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FEDERAL ‘REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE)’ GRANT PROGRAM TO FUND THE MAYO BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

Body

O&R REQUEST

DATE: January 8, 2025

EDITION: 2

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

THROUGH: The Honorable Dr. Danny Avula, Mayor

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

THROUGH: Robert C. Steidel; Deputy Chief Administrative Officer - Operations

THROUGH: Bobby Vincent Jr.; Director of Public Works

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

RE: TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FEDERAL ‘REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE)’ GRANT PROGRAM TO FUND THE MAYO BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

PURPOSE: To request the City Council’s approval for the City of Richmond to participate in and support the Mayo Bridge replacement project for the FY25 RAISE infrastructure grant application process and to commit to the 20% matching funds if the federal funding is approved for the project.

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Department of Transportation has published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for \$1.5 billion in FY25 grant funding through the RAISE discretionary grant program under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). In 2024, USDOT has awarded \$1.8 billion to 148 projects under this grant program.

This is the discretionary funding program to accept applications from localities as directed by President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). For the 2025 RAISE grants, the maximum funding for each selected project is \$25 million, and no single state shall be awarded more than a total of \$225 million.

The Department of Public Works received the NOFO from the US DOT on November 20, 2024, and the deadline for applications is January 30, 2025. Project selections will be announced no later than June 28, 2025. The grant award date is September 30, 2025, with funding available in October 2025. If the project is funded, the funds need to be obligated through September 30, 2029, and the selected project needs to be

completed (with funds expended) by September 30, 2034.

The City agreed, with Council action, that VDOT administer the Mayo bridge replacement project. The total project cost is estimated at approximately \$210 Million. The estimated cost is based on an anticipated 80-foot-wide typical section that provides protected bike lanes and wider sidewalks, as illustrated on the VDOT's project website. The final bridge typical section width and cost estimate will be determined at a later date after sufficient discussions between the City and VDOT, based on input from the Citizen Information Meeting held on September 17, 2024, and other analyses performed by VDOT. The project has a \$ 90 million budget based on the rehabilitation scope of work. Based on the structural analysis, the project scope has changed for the replacement. Therefore, the project cost has increased - creating a funding gap based on the typical section width on the VDOT website.

The RAISE grant awards are capped at \$25 Million and require the City to provide 20% (\$6.25 Million) matching fund if they provide 80% (\$25 Million) fund for the project. The City's \$6.25 Million matching fund will be provided through CVTA Regional funding (\$5 Million allocated in FY27) and CVTA Local/Complete Street (\$1.25 Million) through the future budget process.

The Mayo Bridge Replacement project meets most of the required criteria of RAISE Grants. The criteria include (1) safety, (2) environmental sustainability, (3) quality of life, (4) mobility and community connectivity, (5) economic competitiveness and opportunity, (6) state of good repair, (7) partnership and collaboration, and (8) innovation.

The 110-year-old Mayo Bridge provides a critical connection from historic Shockoe to Mayo Island to historic Manchester districts. Currently, the Mayo Bridge carries 20,000 vehicles per day and is on the High Injury Street Network. It provides a direct connection to regional travelers across the James River as well as intercity bus and rail transportation connections at Main Street Station. This bridge crossing over the James River is critical also to ensure no disruption to safe access for multimodal transportation users to jobs, services, and recreation.

After the 2024 bridge inspection report, the bridge rehabilitation project converted to a bridge replacement project to improve the safety of the bridge after Alkali-silica reaction (ASR) was detected in the original concrete piers. ASR is a chemical reaction that occurs in concrete when alkaline cement and certain types of silica in aggregates react, causing the concrete to crack and deteriorate. The bridge now has a general condition rating of "4 - poor condition" which identifies the bridge as Structurally Deficient (SD) as reported by the latest bridge safety inspection reports. The bridge is also Functionally Obsolete due to its lack of space and protection for people who bike, walk, and roll. This condition persists despite the increased bike and pedestrian users.

The Virginia Department of Health has identified the surrounding census tracts as "very low" using their Health Opportunity Index. In addition, this area under the Richmond 300 Master Plan is expected to see significant growth, including a new park space on Mayo Island. The bridge is located at the center of the James River Park System. Richmond 300 also calls for improving bridges in Objective 9.2 (p. 126).

Providing the funding for this bridge replacement project will enable the City of Richmond to provide a critical transportation connection with a new bridge connection over the James River on US Route 360, which is part of the National Highway System (MAP-21 Principal Arterial). 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 increase the protected and dedicated space for people that walk, roll, bike, and ride transit.

If funding for this project is not obtained and the bridge continues to deteriorate, in future years, it may require a vehicle load posting thereby restricting important truck deliveries and emergency services. These issues can be a huge negative economic impact to the City as this is a gateway to both Downtown and Manchester District. This funding will allow the City to ensure that the National Highway System Route stays in operation at its full load-capacity and provides safe passage for the traveling public over the James River to connect with jobs, services, and recreation.

The intent of this resolution is to provide City Council's support to participate in the 2025 RAISE Grant program and to commit 20% matching funds if federal funding is awarded for the project.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: A Citizen Information Meeting (CIM) was held by VDOT on September 17, 2024, and comments were provided through October 11, 2024. The CIM comment results are available at the VDOT project website.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL: Richmond 300 Master Plan; Richmond Connects support replacement of Mayo Bridge project. No other governmental entity needs to review.

FISCAL IMPACT: Revenue of \$25 million (80%) federal funds if granted. The City's \$6.25 Million matching fund (20%) will be provided through CVTA Regional funding (\$5 Million allocated in FY27) and CVTA Local/Complete Street (\$1.25 Million) through future budget processes if the federal grant is approved. The entire grant amount (\$31.25mil) will be added toward the total estimated bridge replacement cost of \$210 Million to reduce project funding gap.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Adoption

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: January 13, 2025

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: January 27, 2025

REQUESTED AGENDA: Consent

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE: Land Use, Housing and Transportation Committee (LUHT)

AFFECTED AGENCIES: Public Works, Law Department, Planning & Community Development, Economic Development, Park and Recreation, Finance Department, Budget and Strategic Planning, Public Utilities.

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: None

ATTACHMENTS: None

STAFF: M. S. Khara, P.E., City Engineer, 646-5413; Dr. John Kim, P.E., City Bridge Engineer, 646-5684; Lamont L. Benjamin, P.E., Capital Project Administrator, 646-6339