

INTRODUCED: March 14, 2022

A RESOLUTION No. 2022-R020

To express the 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 an Arthur Ashe Boulevard over CSX bridge replacement project.

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Patrons – Mayor Stoney, Ms. Jordan, Mr. Addison, Vice President Robertson, Ms. Lambert  
and President Newbille

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Approved as to form and legality  
by the City Attorney

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PUBLIC HEARING: MAR 28 2022 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 an Arthur Ashe Boulevard over CSX 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:

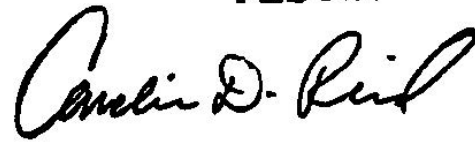
That the Council hereby expresses its support for the City's participation in the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and

AYES: 7 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN:                     

ADOPTED: MAR 28 2022 REJECTED:                      STRICKEN:

Equity funding program for an Arthur Ashe Boulevard over CSX bridge replacement project and, to the extent permitted by law, commits to the 20 percent matching funds if the project is approved for funding.

**A TRUE COPY:  
TESTE:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carolin D. Reed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

**City Clerk**



# City of Richmond

Intracity Correspondence

**O&R REQUEST**

**DATE:** February 10, 2022 **EDITION:** 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

**FROM:** Lamont Benjamin, P.E.; Capital Projects Administrator

**RE:** **TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FEDERAL 'REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE)' GRANT PROGRAM TO FUND THE ARTHUR ASHE BLVD 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 Arthur Ashe Blvd (AAB) over CSX Bridge replacement project for the FY22 RAISE infrastructure grant application process and to commit to the 20% matching funds if the federal funding is approved for the project.

**REASON:** An approved Council Resolution indicating the Council's request for participation and support of the identified potential project, and commitment to provide the 20% matching funds if the federal funding is approved, is required in order to participate in the FY22 RAISE Infrastructure Grant Program.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Department of Public Works recommends approval of this resolution.

**BACKGROUND:** The U.S. Department of Transportation has published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for \$1.5 billion in FY22 grant funding through the RAISE discretionary grant program under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The

RAISE discretionary grants, which were originally created as TIGER grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in 2009, can be used for a wide variety of projects. Overall, USDOT has awarded \$9.9 billion to more than 700 projects under these grant programs since 2009.

This is the first discretionary funding program to accept applications as directed by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). For the 2022 RAISE grants, maximum funding for each selected project is \$25 million and no single state shall be awarded more than total of \$225million.

Deadline of application is April 14, 2022. The grant award date is August 12, 2022 with funding available in October 2022. If the project is funded, the funds need to be obligated through September 30, 2026 and the selected project needs to be completed and funds are expended by September 30, 2031. If the grant is available in October 2022, the design is anticipated to be completed in 2025. Construction begins in 2026 and completes in 2028, which is well aligned with the grant schedule requirements.

The total estimated cost of the AAB bridge replacement project is \$20,000,000. The grant program requires the City to provide 20% (\$4Million) matching fund as they provide 80% (\$16Million) fund for the project. The City's \$4M matching fund is proposed to be appropriated using City CIP GO bond and/or CVTA Local Special Fund for FY24 through FY26 budget years. Due to rigorous studies in technical, economic, environmental, and cost benefit analyses, the City is hiring a consultant to prepare and assist in submitting the grant application. Application preparation cost is estimated at \$40,000. Adopted FY22 DPW Bridge Special Funds will be utilized for this application preparation task.

Arthur Ashe Boulevard 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 AAB Bridge provides a critical connection from the northern edge of the City of Richmond to the downtown commercial, residential and museum districts. Currently, the Arthur Ashe Boulevard carries 26,000 vehicles per day and is on the High Injury Street Network. It provides a direct connection to regional interstate travelers via I-95 and I-64 as well as intercity bus transportation at the Greyhound Transportation station. This bridge crossing over CSXT is critical also to ensure no disruption to the approximately 20 trains per day including Amtrak that use the tracks.

After the 2019 regularly scheduled bridge inspection, an emergency repair was implemented to improve the safety of bridge. 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 Functionally Obsolete due to increased bike and pedestrian traffic.

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 athletic village for VCU. The bridge is located at the center of the Diamond District. Richmond 300 also calls for improving bridges in Objective 9.2 (p. 126).

By providing the funding for this bridge replacement project, this will enable the City of Richmond to provide a critical transportation connection and a new crossing for State Route 161 over CSXT, 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 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 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 and a critical connection to I-95/I-64 that is grade separated crossing of CSX (a parallel CSX crossing at Hermitage Road is at grade). This funding will allow the City to ensure that the National Highway System Route stays in operation at its full load carrying capacity and provides safe passage for the traveling public over the heavily used Railway.

The intent of this resolution is to provide City Council authorization to participate in the 2022 RAISE Grant program and to commit 20% matching funds if the federal funding is awarded for the project.

**FISCAL IMPACT / COST:** \$40,000 to prepare the grant application that is funded thru FY22 DPW Bridge Special Fund (Cost Center 02912). Additionally, \$ 4,000,000 in matching 20% City funds in FY24 thru FY26 City CIP and/or CVTA Local Special Funds if federal grant is approved. The cost is the required 20% match of the total estimated \$ 20,000,000 bridge replacement cost.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:** Not participating in this program eliminates the possibility of receiving up to \$16,000,000 (80%) in federal infrastructure funds for the Arthur Ashe Blvd over CSX bridge replacement project.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY:** Not at this time. It is anticipated that City will allocate the required 20% matching City funds from City CIP and/or CVTA Local Special Funds in FY24 thru FY26 when and if the project/grant is approved by the USDOT.

**REVENUE TO CITY:** \$16,000,000, if grant application is approved.

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon adoption.

**REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE:** March 14, 2022.

O&R Request

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**CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE:** March 28, 2022.

**REQUESTED AGENDA:** Consent.

**RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE:** Land Use, Housing, and Transportation Standing Committee meeting (March 22, 2022).

**CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES:** None.

**AFFECTED AGENCIES:** Public Works, Law Department, Planning & Community Development, Economic Development, Park and Recreation, Finance Department, Budget and Strategic Planning. Copies also sent to: City Mayor (Levar M. Stoney); Chief Administrative Officer (J.E. Lincoln Saunders) and City Attorney (2)

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

**REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S):** 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