

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-22**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING APPLICATION FOR A  
REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY  
(RAISE) GRANT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MULTIPLE INTERCONNECTED AND  
OUTSTANDING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

**WHEREAS**, The City of Brevard has long valued quality multi-modal transportation infrastructure to meet the needs of our citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, this value has expressed itself through numerous public input efforts and planning processes over many years of various studies; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Brevard and the City have worked to cultivate their unique and innate assets, such as geographic position to the Pisgah National Forest, DuPont State Forest, Gorges State Park, Bracken Preserve, Blue Ridge Mountains, its unique downtown and its historic built environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Brevard and its citizens have worked to develop these assets to transform their economy upon the closure of several large industries; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has invested in multiple transportation related plans and partnered with other regional entities to develop these plans, including the: Downtown Masterplan of 2002, 2012 and 2021, the FHWA supported Ecusta Rail Trail Planning Study and Economic Impact Analysis of 2012, the Comprehensive Transportation Plan of 2007 and 2025, the Brevard Bicycle-Friendly Community Improvement Plan of 2018, the Transylvania County Bicycle Plan of 2019, the Blue Ridge Regional Bike Plan, and the Brevard Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan of 2006 and 2018, to name a few; and

**WHEREAS**, these plans and investments confirm the interest to provide efficient alternative modes of transportation such as bike, transit, pedestrian and multi-use spaces in existence and coordination with traditional vehicular use corridors; and

**WHEREAS**, significant investments to implement these plans and interests have been made by the City, our government administration neighbors and other transportation related partners as opportunities and funding allow; and

**WHEREAS**, Brevard understands that a safe, reliable, affordable and accessible transportation system is essential to the quality of life of our residents and to the health of our economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Transportation has issued another round of its transportation infrastructure discretionary grant funding, now titled RAISE; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 RAISE grant is providing \$1 billion of funding for planning and capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact; and

**WHEREAS**, RAISE funding can support roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation that include, implement or enhance safety, economic competitiveness, quality of life, environmental sustainability, state of good repair, innovation, and partnerships; and

**WHEREAS**, fifty percent of the 2021 RAISE Transportation grant is appropriated to support projects located in rural areas that deliver positive benefits for these communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Brevard is a rural community and has multiple transportation infrastructure needs, as outlined in the aforementioned plans, that require alternative funding sources to advance; and

**WHEREAS**, the RAISE grant program is a robust alternative funding source for transportation infrastructure needs, however it is also an extremely competitive nationwide program necessitating one to consider a robust funding match, a thorough and thoughtful application and demonstration of sound, strategic planning practices, past investments, commitment and capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 RAISE grant allows award grantees until September 30, 2024, to obligate the grant funds via an authorized written grant agreement and provides grantees until September 30, 2029, to expend or liquidate the awarded grant; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 RAISE applications are due by July 12, 2021, at 5:00 pm and notification of awards is expected on or before November 22, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has prioritized certain transportation projects that are in varying stages of status and funding availability that, if implemented simultaneously, will significantly achieve our desire to provide interconnectivity.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA THAT:**

**SECTION 1.** The City Manager is hereby authorized to apply for a RAISE grant and accept funding for the implementation of:

1. **ECUSTA TRAIL**-design and construction of the Transylvania County portion of the 19-mile regional trail system connecting to Henderson County
2. **ESTATOE TRAIL**-design and construction of the trail segment from the Mary C. Jenkins Community Center/Silversteen Park to Brevard High School and the construction of a pedestrian/bike tunnel in conjunction with the NCDOT Asheville Hwy Improvements Project near Allison Road, and
3. **DOWNTOWN MASTERPLAN STREETScape**- as outlined in the Downtown Master Plan of 2021 document adopted by the Brevard City Council on June 21, 2021: and

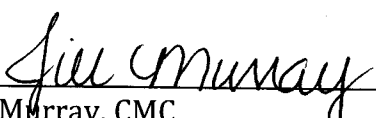
**SECTION 2.** The City Manager is hereby authorized to commit up to \$4,623,515 as a local match to support a RAISE grant request of approximately \$21.1 million to advance these projects.

**SECTION 3.** This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption and approval.

Adopted and approved on 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 2021.



ATTEST:

  
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Jill Murray, CMC  
City Clerk



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Mac Morrow  
Mayor Pro Tem