

EMERGENCY

KKF

- 2026

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to apply for grant resources of up to \$25,000,000 awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation (ALN 20.933) through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development transportation discretionary grant program to provide resources for demolition and construction of portions of the Western Hills Viaduct.

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of replacing the Western Hills Viaduct is significant and replacement is expected to take approximately eight years to complete, over a minimum of three construction phases, alongside ongoing maintenance as funding becomes available; and

WHEREAS, there are grant funds available from the U.S. Department of Transportation through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (“BUILD”) transportation discretionary grant program to provide resources for demolition and construction of portions of the Western Hills Viaduct, including construction of the eastern and western approaches to the replacement viaduct; and

WHEREAS, the grant application deadline was February 24, 2026, and the City has already applied for the grant, but no grant funds will be accepted without approval by Council; and

WHEREAS, specific local matching funds are not required for this grant since the project’s location in an identified Area of Persistent Poverty and a Historically Disadvantaged Community qualifies it for up to a 100 percent federal cost share; however, previously committed local funds from the City, County, and the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) will be used in combination with the BUILD grant as part of the overall funding necessary to advance the project; and

WHEREAS, there are no new FTEs associated with the acceptance of this grant; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of the Western Hills Viaduct is in accordance with the “Connect” goal to “[d]evelop an efficient multi-modal transportation system that supports neighborhood livability” and the strategy to “[p]lan, design and implement a safe sustainable transportation system” as described on pages 129-137 of Plan Cincinnati; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the City Manager is authorized to apply for up to \$25,000,000 in Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development grant resources from the U.S. Department of Transportation for demolition and construction of portions of the Western Hills Viaduct, including construction of the eastern and western approaches to the replacement viaduct.

Section 2. That the proper City officials are authorized to do all things necessary and proper to comply with the terms of this grant and Section 1.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to authorize the grant application at the earliest possible time.

Passed: _____, 2026

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk