

March 31, 2021

To: Mayor and Members of City Council 202101227
From: Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager
Subject: **Ordinance – Western Hills Viaduct TRAC Grant Application**

Attached is an Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to apply for a grant in an amount up to \$150,000,000 from the Transportation Review Advisory Council (CFDA 20.205), awarded by and through the Ohio Department of Transportation, to provide resources for the construction associated with replacement of the Western Hills Viaduct; and **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to enter into the necessary agreements with Hamilton County to jointly apply for these grant resources.

Approval of this Ordinance would authorize the City Manager to apply for grant resources in an amount up to \$150,000,000 from the Transportation Review Advisory Council ("TRAC") program awarded by and through the Ohio Department of Transportation ("ODOT") for the construction associated with the replacement of the Western Hills Viaduct. The total current estimated cost of replacing the Western Hills Viaduct is \$335,000,000, including costs for design, right of way acquisition, construction, removals, and interim maintenance on the existing viaduct until a new viaduct is complete and operational.

If grant resources are awarded, a local match in an amount up to \$15,000,000 will be identified in future capital improvement program resources. A contribution of up to \$15,000,000 will also be needed from Hamilton County to meet the 20% match requirement. No new FTEs are associated with the acceptance of this grant.

The Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) intends to submit this grant application by March 26, 2021. Due to the application deadline, this application will be submitted prior to the effective date of this Ordinance. DOTE will only accept grant resources for which the City Council has provided authorization.

The replacement of the Western Hills Viaduct is in accordance with the "Connect" goal to "Develop a regional transportation system that promotes economic vitality," and the strategy to "Plan, design, and implement a safe and sustainable transportation system," as described on pages 127-138 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The Administration recommends passage of this Ordinance.

cc: Christopher A. Bigham, Assistant City Manager
Karen Alder, Finance Director

Attachment

