

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to apply for grant resources in an amount of up to \$200,000,000 awarded by the United States Department of Transportation through the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects (ALN 20.934) and the National Infrastructure Project Assistance (ALN 20.937) discretionary grant programs for the construction of the Western Hills Viaduct.

WHEREAS, the total current estimated cost of replacing the Western Hills Viaduct is \$389,000,000, 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; and

WHEREAS, replacement of the Western Hills Viaduct is expected to take approximately thirteen years to complete, over the course of six construction phases and four ongoing maintenance phases as funding becomes available; and

WHEREAS, the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects (“INFRA”) and the National Infrastructure Project Assistance (“MEGA”) discretionary grants may be used for up to 60 percent of eligible project costs, and require a 40 percent match, of which a minimum of 20 percent must be local matching funds; and

WHEREAS, some federal assistance has been secured for the Western Hills Viaduct project, and while sources of local matching funds have yet to be determined, these funds are expected to come from various sources including future allocations of resources in the “Western Hills Viaduct,” “Maintenance Fund for Bridges,” and the “Bridge Rehabilitation Program” capital improvement program project accounts; and

WHEREAS, applications for the INFRA and MEGA grant resources were submitted prior to the effective date of this ordinance to meet the application deadline of May 23, 2022; and

WHEREAS, if awarded grant funding, the Department of Transportation and Engineering will require authorization from City Council in order to accept the funds and will only accept a grant amount for which matching funds are available; and

WHEREAS, there are no new FTEs associated with the acceptance of these grants; and

WHEREAS, the Western Hills Viaduct replacement project is in accordance with the “Connect” goal to “[d]evelop a regional transportation system that promotes economic vitality,” and the strategy to “[u]se the City’s transportation network to help facilitate economic development opportunities,” as described on pages 139-143 of Plan Cincinnati (2012); 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 grant resources in an amount of up to \$200,000,000 awarded by the United States Department of Transportation through the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects (ALN 20.934) and National Infrastructure Project Assistance (ALN 20.937) discretionary grant programs for the construction of the Western Hills Viaduct.

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

Section 3. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: _____, 2022

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk