

October 25, 2023

To: Mayor and Members of City Council 202302274

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – DOTE: RAISE Grant and Community Project Funding Grant

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

ESTABLISHING new capital improvement program project account nos. 980x232x242368, “State to Central - RAISE Grant,” and 980x232x242369, “State to Central - CPF Grant,” to provide federal grant resources to conduct a Complete Streets project, which includes improving the safety of City streets and enhancing bicycle and pedestrian connections and safety; **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept and appropriate a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity grant (ALN 20.933) awarded by the United States Department of Transportation (“USDOT”) of up to \$20,000,000 to newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x232x242368, “State to Central - RAISE Grant”; **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept and appropriate a Community Project Funding grant (ALN 20.534) awarded by USDOT of up to \$1,500,000 to newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x232x242369, “State to Central - CPF Grant”; and **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to execute any agreements necessary for the receipt and administration of these grant resources.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance authorizes the following:

1. The establishment of new capital improvement program project account nos. 980x232x242368, “State to Central – RAISE Grant,” and 980x232x242369, “State to Central – CPF Grant,” to provide federal grant resources to conduct a Complete Streets project, which includes improving the safety of City streets and enhancing bicycle and pedestrian connections and safety;
2. The City Manager to accept and appropriate a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (“RAISE”) grant (ALN 20.933) awarded by the United States Department of Transportation (“USDOT”) of up to \$20,000,000 to newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x232x242368, “State to Central – RAISE Grant”;
3. The City Manager to accept and appropriate a Community Project Funding (CPF) grant (ALN 20.534) awarded by USDOT of up to \$1,500,000 to newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x232x242369, “State to Central – CPF Grant”; and
4. The City Manager to execute any agreements necessary for the receipt and administration of these grant resources.

On March 30, 2022, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 0078-2022, which authorized the City Manager to apply for a RAISE grant of up to \$25,000,000 from USDOT to conduct a Complete Streets project. The City was awarded a RAISE grant of up to \$20,000,000 from USDOT to conduct a Complete Streets project.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 included a Community Project Funding earmark for the State to Central Complete Streets project of up to \$1,500,000, and City Council authorization is required to accept and appropriate this Community Project Funding.

The Department of Transportation and Engineering intends to conduct a Complete Streets project that will include right-sizing Linn Street from Central Parkway to West 8th Street and West 8th Street from Linn Street to State Avenue, creating and improving bicycle connections on West 8th Street from Linn Street to downtown and installing streetscape and pedestrian safety improvements along State Avenue, all in the neighborhoods of the West End and Lower Price Hill.

The federal grants require a twenty percent local match, which is anticipated to be available in the future FY 2025 capital improvement program project account, “State to Central: Building Better Neighborhoods.” This local match may be partially offset by upcoming grant opportunities from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA). No new FTE/full-time equivalent requirements are associated with these grants.

Utilizing grant funding for conducting a Complete Streets project is in accordance with the “Connect” goal to “[d]evelop an efficient multi-modal transportation system that supports neighborhood livability” and strategies to “[e]xpand options for non-automotive travel” and “[p]lan, design, and implement a safe and sustainable transportation system” as described on pages 129-138 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to finalize agreements to comply with the established project schedule.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew M. Dudas, Budget Director
Karen Alder, Finance Director



Attachment