

January 12, 2022

**To:** Mayor and Members of City Council

**From:** Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager

**Subject:** **Emergency Ordinance – DOTE: SORTA Transit Infrastructure Fund Grants**

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Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

**ESTABLISHING** new special revenue fund, Fund No. 401, “Transit Infrastructure Fund Grants,” for the purpose of receiving and depositing grant resources from the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (“SORTA”) Transit Infrastructure Fund program to be used for transit related roadway infrastructure improvements in the City of Cincinnati and the repayment of debt service for transit related roadway infrastructure improvements, including the Western Hills Viaduct; **ESTABLISHING** new capital improvement program project account no. 980x233x222388, “Beekman Street Transit Grant,” for the purpose of providing resources for improvements including, but not limited to, street rehabilitation, retaining wall rehabilitation, and pedestrian safety on Beekman Avenue from Hopple Street to Elmore Street; **ESTABLISHING** new capital improvement program project account no. 980x233x222389, “Paxton Avenue Transit Grant,” for the purpose of providing resources for improvements including, but not limited to, street rehabilitation and intersection improvements on Paxton Avenue from Wasson Road to Marburg Avenue; **ESTABLISHING** new capital improvement program project account no. 980x233x222393, “Warsaw Avenue Transit Grant,” for the purpose of providing resources for improvements including, but not limited to, street rehabilitation, restriping, and pedestrian safety on Warsaw Avenue from Glenway Avenue to Grand Avenue; **ESTABLISHING** new capital improvement program project account no. 980x233x222391, “River Road Transit Grant,” for the purpose of providing resources for improvements including, but not limited to, street rehabilitation and restriping on River Road from Fairbanks Avenue to Anderson Ferry Road; **ESTABLISHING** new capital improvement program project account no. 980x233x222392, “Western Hills Viaduct Transit Grant,” for the purpose of providing resources for improvements including, but not limited to, the demolition and construction of the Western Hills Viaduct project; **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept and deposit into Fund No. 401, “Transit Infrastructure Fund Grants,” grant resources totaling up to \$205 million from the SORTA Transit Infrastructure Fund program, which will be received over 25 years at a rate of \$8.2 million per year for the Western Hills Viaduct project; **AUTHORIZING** the City

Manager to accept and deposit into Fund No. 401, "Transit Infrastructure Fund Grants," grant resources totaling up to \$7.21 million from the SORTA Transit Infrastructure Fund for various other capital improvement projects; AUTHORIZING the City Manager to transfer and appropriate up to \$15.41 million from the unappropriated surplus of Fund No. 401, "Transit Infrastructure Fund Grants," to newly established capital improvement program project accounts, according to the attached schedule of transfer; and AUTHORIZING the City Manager to enter into any necessary agreements to accept grant resources.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance does the following:

1. Establishes new special revenue fund, Fund No. 401, "Transit Infrastructure Fund Grants," for the purpose of receiving and depositing grant resources from the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority ("SORTA") Transit Infrastructure Fund program to be used for transit related roadway infrastructure improvements in the City of Cincinnati and the repayment of debt service for transit related roadway infrastructure improvements, including the Western Hills Viaduct;
2. Establishes new capital improvement program project account no. 980x233x222388, "Beekman Street Transit Grant," for the purpose of providing resources for improvements including, but not limited to, street rehabilitation, retaining wall rehabilitation, and pedestrian safety on Beekman Avenue from Hopple Street to Elmore Street;
3. Establishes new capital improvement program project account no. 980x233x222389, "Paxton Avenue Transit Grant," for the purpose of providing resources for improvements including, but not limited to, street rehabilitation and intersection improvements on Paxton Avenue from Wasson Road to Marburg Avenue;
4. Establishes new capital improvement program project account no. 980x233x222393, "Warsaw Avenue Transit Grant," for the purpose of providing resources for improvements including, but not limited to, street rehabilitation, restriping, and pedestrian safety on Warsaw Avenue from Glenway Avenue to Grand Avenue;
5. Establishes new capital improvement program project account no. 980x233x222391, "River Road Transit Grant," for the purpose of providing resources for improvements including, but not limited to, street rehabilitation and restriping on River Road from Fairbanks Avenue to Anderson Ferry Road;
6. Establishes new capital improvement program project account no. 980x233x222392, "Western Hills Viaduct Transit Grant," for the purpose of providing resources for improvements including, but not limited to, the demolition and construction of the Western Hills Viaduct project;
7. Authorizes the City Manager to accept and deposit into Fund No. 401, "Transit Infrastructure Fund Grants," grant resources totaling up to \$205 million from the SORTA Transit Infrastructure Fund program, which will be received over 25 years at a rate of \$8.2 million per year for the Western Hills Viaduct project;

8. Authorizes the City Manager to accept and deposit into Fund No. 401, "Transit Infrastructure Fund Grants," grant resources totaling up to \$7.21 million from the SORTA Transit Infrastructure Fund for various other capital improvement projects;
9. Authorizes the City Manager to transfer and appropriate up to \$15.41 million from the unappropriated surplus of Fund No. 401, "Transit Infrastructure Fund Grants," to newly established capital improvement program project accounts, according to the attached schedule of transfer; and
10. Authorizes the City Manager to enter into any necessary agreements to accept grant resources.

On June 9, 2021, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 0221-2021, which authorized the City Manager to apply for grants awarded by the SORTA Transit Infrastructure Fund for the purpose of ensuring the timely completion of various road and bridge construction projects throughout the City. The Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) was awarded grant resources, and City Council authorization is required to accept grant resources.

Excluding the award for the Western Hills Viaduct, local matching resources totaling \$5.86 million will come from existing and future Street Rehabilitation capital improvement program project accounts, in addition to grant resources provided by the Ohio Department of Transportation Urban Paving Program in an amount of up to \$1.35 million as authorized for River Road, per Ordinance No. 0316-2021. No new FTEs are required.

Utilizing Transit Infrastructure Fund program grant resources resources to support transit related projects is accordance with the "Connect" goal to "develop an efficient multi-modal transportation system that supports neighborhood livability," as described on pages 129-138 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to accept and appropriate grant resources.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

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

Attachment

