

March 18, 2026

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

202601095

**Subject: Emergency Ordinance – DOTE: Ohio River Trail Oasis Phase 1
Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant**

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

ESTABLISHING new capital improvement program project account no. 980x233x262348, “ORT Oasis Phase 1 CMAQ PID 122971,” to provide resources for the Ohio River Trail Oasis Corridor; **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Grant of up to \$8,800,000 awarded through the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (ALN 20.205) to the newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x233x262348, “ORT Oasis Phase 1 CMAQ PID 122971” to provide resources for the Ohio River Trail Oasis Corridor; **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit the funds into the newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x233x262348, “ORT Oasis Phase 1 CMAQ PID 122971”; and **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to execute any agreements and do all things necessary for the receipt and administration of these grant resources.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance authorizes the following:

1. the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant of up to \$8,800,000 awarded through the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana (OKI) Regional Council of Governments (ALN 20.205) to the newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x233x262348, “ORT Oasis Phase 1 CMAQ PID 122971” to provide resources for the Ohio River Trail (ORT) Oasis Corridor;
2. the Director of Finance to deposit the funds into the newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x233x262348, “ORT Oasis Phase 1 CMAQ PID 122971”; and
3. the City Manager to execute any agreements and do all things necessary for the receipt and administration of these grant resources.

On June 7, 2024, Great Parks of Hamilton County (Great Parks) applied for the CMAQ grant as a co- Local Public Agency (LPA) with the City to fund planning, construction, and right-of-way work for the Ohio River Trail Oasis Corridor, including a shared use path trail on the north side of the railroad corridor.

OKI notified the City that the project has been awarded \$8,000,000, with a possible future additional award of up to \$800,000, for a total of up to \$8,800,000, but no grant funds will be accepted without approval by the City Council. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) informed the recipients that the administration, construction management, and award of the grants are to be directed and receipted solely by the City.

Upon completion of the trail, the City and Great Parks intend to enter into an agreement whereby Great Parks will take responsibility for operation and maintenance of the Oasis trail, but the City will be ultimately responsible for keeping the shared-used path safe, accessible, functional, and in good repair throughout its useful life. The Department of Transportation & Engineering cannot quantify the required additional future operating costs at this time, but maintenance and operation will include vegetation control, trash removal and general upkeep, routine inspections, minor signage and markings maintenance, preventive pavement maintenance with spot repairs, drainage corrections, and snow and ice control.

The CMAQ Grant requires matching resources of up to \$2,200,000, for which the City will seek additional grant awards. There are no new FTE/full time equivalents associated with this grant.

Building a shared use path trail is in accordance with the “Connect” goal to “[d]evelop an efficient multi-modal transportation system that supports neighborhood livability,” and strategy to “[p]lan, design, and implement a safe and sustainable transportation system,” as described on pages 129-137 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to accept grant resources and meet established project deadlines.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew Dudas, Budget Director
Steve Webb, Finance Director



Attachments