

November 30, 2022

To: Mayor and Members of City Council 202202088
From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager
Subject: **Ordinance – DCED: Race & Vine Street Two-Way Conversion - TIF**

Attached is an Ordinance captioned:

ESTABLISHING new capital improvement program project account no. 980x164x231628, “Race & Vine Street Two-Way Conversion - TIF,” for the purpose of providing resources for the preliminary design for the possible conversion of Race Street and Vine Street to two-way streets in the downtown neighborhood; **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of the sum of \$81,000 from the unappropriated surplus of Downtown South/Riverfront Equivalent Fund 481 to the Department of Community and Economic Development non-personnel operating budget account no. 481x164x7200; and **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of the sum of \$122,000 from the unappropriated surplus of Downtown South/Riverfront Equivalent Fund 481 to the new capital improvement program project account no. 980x164x231628, “Race & Vine Street Two-Way Conversion - TIF,” all for the purpose of providing resources for the possible conversion of Race Street and Vine Street to two-way streets between Second Street on the south and Central Parkway on the north in the downtown neighborhood.

Approval of this Ordinance establishes new capital improvement program project account no. 980x164x231628, “Race & Vine Street Two-Way Conversion - TIF,” for the purpose of providing resources for the preliminary design for the possible conversion of Race Street and Vine Street to two-way streets in the downtown neighborhood. It further authorizes the transfer and appropriation of \$81,000 from the unappropriated surplus of Downtown South/Riverfront Equivalent Fund 481 to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) non-personnel operating budget account no. 481x164x7200. Additionally, approval of this Ordinance authorizes the transfer and appropriation of \$122,000 from the unappropriated surplus of Downtown South/OTR East Equivalent Fund 481 to newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x164x231628, “Race & Vine Street Two Way Conversion - TIF,” for the purpose of providing resources for the possible conversion of Race Street and Vine Street to two-way streets between Second Street on the south and Central Parkway on the north in the downtown neighborhood.

The project will be completed in two phases. The first phase will be a feasibility study on Race and Vine Streets as the primary two-way streets which will cost \$81,000.

This amount includes \$3,750 for a traffic count study completed in 2021. If the feasibility study indicates that Race and Vine Streets can serve as two-way streets, further design will be completed. An additional \$122,000 is needed to complete a field study, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance report, concept design, and construction cost estimates.

In 2019, the Mayor and the City Council created the Downtown Pedestrian Task Force to review several pedestrian safety initiatives downtown. One of the initiatives was evaluating the ability of several downtown streets to be converted to two-way streets. 3CDC and the Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) jointly hired a third-party Traffic Engineering firm to assess current conditions and run traffic modeling regarding the two-way conversion of the following streets: Vine Street - 3rd Street to Central Parkway, 8th Street - Central Avenue to Broadway, and 9th Street - Central Avenue to Broadway. During the evaluation, multiple Task Force meetings were held to receive feedback. Although the streets being considered at this point have changed, the feedback previously received from this task force is still applicable. On October 11th, 2022, 3CDC and DOTE presented an update of the current project at the Downtown Residents Council meeting to continue community engagement.

Providing resources for a feasibility study and preliminary design for the possible conversion of Race Street and Vine Street to two-way streets between Second Street on the south and Central Parkway on the north in the downtown neighborhood constitutes a “Public Infrastructure Improvement” (as defined in Section 5709.40(A)(8) of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) that will benefit and/or serve the District 2- Downtown South/Riverfront District Incentive District, subject to compliance with ORC Sections 5709.40 through 5709.43.

The Administration recommends passage of this Ordinance.

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

Attachment