

**RESOLUTION NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MISSOULA CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE MISSOULA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION'S RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION, *RECONNECTING EAST MISSOULA***

**WHEREAS**, the Missoula Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), in partnership with the City of Missoula and Missoula County, is applying for funding from the US Department of Transportation Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCP) grant in order to provide complete streets improvements along Highway 200 between Van Buren and Tamarack Road, including sidewalks, bike lanes, shared-use paths, and improved intersections, and to reconstruct the railroad underpass to allow for safe, accessible multi-modal transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, the project will remove barriers to equitable and safe transportation for the East Missoula community, which has historically been divided by Highway 200, and separated from the rest of the region by the narrow railroad underpass; and

**WHEREAS**, this project is identified in the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Long Range Transportation Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the MPO, with support from the Montana Department of Transportation, Missoula County, and the City of Missoula recently completed the East Missoula Highway 200 Corridor Plan, which provides recommendations for safety and access improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, there is demonstrated need in the aforementioned documents for additional sources of funding to complete these needed safety improvements along Highway 200 in both the City and County; and

**WHEREAS**, the project will address a need for improvements to key networks that will provide attractive, active and connected urban to rural transportation facilities within an existing mixed-use community area, reducing the need for future vehicle trips on congested roadways; and

**WHEREAS**, proposed improvements will enhance multi-modal transportation by providing safer, more convenient options for walking, biking and transit; and

**WHEREAS**, the project will alleviate areas of known transportation crash trends, including vehicle and non-motorized road users, and reduce the need for non-local funding of regional road systems by improving safety and providing enhanced multi-modal transportation connections; and

**WHEREAS**, the project will provide critical infrastructure in an area experiencing growth, and will reduce the cost of development, supporting the City of Missoula and Missoula County affordable housing policies; and  
**WHEREAS**, the RCP grant in combination with local contributions will fund the project; and

**WHEREAS**, the RCP federal grant application requires a minimum match of 20 percent of the total project cost; and

**WHEREAS**, Missoula County is committed to providing local funds sufficient to cover the requirements for match on federal funds necessary to construct the segments of the project outside of City limits; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Missoula is committed to matching up to \$50,000, consisting of a mix of transportation impact fees, park district, and gas taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, this cross-jurisdictional project will ensure collaboration between the City of Missoula and Missoula County to provide connectivity, safety and accessibility for residents along Highway 200 regardless of whether they live within City limits, and in order to create a consistent design of the corridor.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Missoula, Montana that the City Council and Mayor support the intent of and project contained in the 2022 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application, and commit to providing up to \$50,000 in local funds as match necessary to complete the project elements located with the current City limits.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Martha L. Rehbein  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jordan Hess  
Mayor

(SEAL)