

RESOLUTION NUMBER _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MISSOULA CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY GRANT APPLICATION, MISSOULA DOWNTOWN SAFETY AND MULTIMODAL CONNECTIVITY

WHEREAS, the City of Missoula, with support from the Missoula Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), is applying for funding from the US Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant in order to provide complete street improvements along Higgins Avenue between Brooks to Broadway Streets; restore Front and Main Streets to two-way operations between Orange and Madison Streets; and improve access to and from the Riverfront trail including an ADA ramp, sidewalks, bike lanes, shared-use paths, and turn lanes; and

WHEREAS, the Higgins Avenue portion of this project is identified in the 2009 Downtown Master Plan, the 2012 and 2016 LRTPs, the 2019 Downtown Master Plan, and the 2020 LRTP, and the 2021-2023 Higgins Avenue Corridor Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Missoula Redevelopment Agency (MRA) commissioned the Front & Main portion of this project in 2014 in the Front Street/Main Street Two-Way Conversion Feasibility Study; and

WHEREAS, the Riverfront Trail improvements are identified in the 2020 North Riverside Parks and Trails Design plan and the 2019 Downtown Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, there is demonstrated need in the aforementioned documents for additional sources of funding to complete these necessary safety and accessibility improvements; and

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

WHEREAS, the project will increase safety, accessibility, and connectivity in, around, and to Downtown Missoula; and

WHEREAS, this project will support economic activity by providing greater accessibility to businesses through nonmotorized and motorized safety improvements and increased downtown circulation; and

WHEREAS, proposed improvements will enhance multi-modal transportation by providing safer, more convenient options for walking, biking and transit, thereby supporting the City's mode split and sustainability goals; and

WHEREAS, improvements will support equity by providing safe and connected nonmotorized facilities to the amenities, housing, and businesses that Downtown Missoula offers; and

WHEREAS, this project will improve state of good repair by providing funding for a necessary road reconstruction on Higgins Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the project will provide critical infrastructure in an area experiencing growth, and will reduce household transportation costs, supporting the City of Missoula's affordable housing policies; and

WHEREAS, the project will alleviate areas of known transportation crash trends, including vehicle and nonmotorized road users, using the Federal Highway Administration's proven safety countermeasures; and

WHEREAS, this project will address safety issues on the Higgins Avenue corridor through a four to three lane conversion, separating bicyclist and motor vehicles, reducing pedestrian crossing distances, and creating dedicated left-turn lanes; and

WHEREAS, this project will address safety and circulation issues in Downtown and the adjacent Kiwanis neighborhood by restoring Front and Main Streets to a two-way operations between Orange and Madison Streets, increasing pedestrian visibility through intersection bulb-outs, and creating dedicated

bicycle facilities on the streets and through intersections; and

WHEREAS, this project will create safer, accessible, and more defined accesses from the Riverfront Trail to Front and Main streets; and

WHEREAS, this project will widen narrow sections of the Riverfront Trail to create more space for pedestrians and bicyclists sharing the trail and make the trail width more consistent; and

WHEREAS, the RAISE grant in combination with local contributions will fund the project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Missoula is committed to matching up to \$xxxx, consisting primarily of tax increment funding (TIF); and

WHEREAS, this project will provide connectivity, safety, and accessibility in and to the core of Missoula; support affordable housing, mode split goals, and economic activity; and provide an environment that supports Downtown Missoula as a destination.

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 2023 RAISE grant application, and commit to providing up to \$xxxx in local funds to complete the project.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2023

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Martha L. Rehbein
City Clerk

Jordan Hess
Mayor

(SEAL)