

**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 \$1,100,000, 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 \$1,100,000 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)