

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AND LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT PROGRAM 2022 (LINCOLN WAY CORRIDOR CONNECTIVITY PROJECT – N. DAKOTA TO S. SKUNK RIVER)**

**BACKGROUND:**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has recently announced the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for 2022. This program is replacing TIGER, a large surface transportation funding program. The RAISE 2022 Grant Program addresses goals related to equitable, reliable multi-modal transportation connecting residents of all abilities with employment, health services, recreation, and community. Additionally, the program promotes and furthers improved safety features, sustainability and the reduction of emissions through technology advancements and expansion of multi-modal connectivity, creation of good jobs, and modernized infrastructure.

The City has prepared a project application for the Lincoln Way Corridor that will incorporate currently programmed CIP Projects into a phased approach to rebuild and enhance that corridor from North Dakota Avenue to the South Skunk River. Components of the grant application will include planning and design, street improvements, multi-modal improvements, and phases of the Intelligent Transportation System for the Traffic Network. Current CIP Projects that will be included for consideration of grant funding are the following:

1. **2022/23 CyRide Route Improvements** (Lincoln Way – Beedle to Franklin) (\$2,911,000)
2. **2026/27 CyRide Route Improvements** (Lincoln Way – Beach Ave to Hayward Ave) (\$2,000,000)
3. **2026/27 Arterial Street Improvements** (E. Lincoln Way (Duff Ave to S. Skunk River) \$2,400,000)
4. **2023/24 Shared Use Path Expansion** (\$300,000)
5. **2023/24 Intelligent Transportation System Program – Phase 4** (\$1,971,600)
6. **2026/27 Traffic Signal Program** (Lincoln Way/University Blvd) (\$500,000)

The City qualifies under this grant opportunity as a rural community with historically disadvantaged areas (as defined by the Census Tract indicators). **The grant application will request funding not to exceed \$25,000,000.** The grant provides 100% funding for awarded components of the grant application. The City will utilize local funding and state grants alongside the grant funding in order to fulfill the project in a more timely, inclusive, and succinct process for the community.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. a. Approve the resolution of support for the RAISE 2022 Grant Application for the Lincoln Way Corridor Connectivity Project (N. Dakota – S. Skunk River)
- b. Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the Lincoln Way Corridor Connectivity Project
2. Do not approve the resolution of support or signature authorization for the application letter of support.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Proceeding with this grant application may significantly reduce the local costs for the Lincoln Way Corridor improvements related to street and shared use path reconstruction, Intelligent Transportation System Traffic Network improvements, multi-modal accessibility facilities, and features throughout the corridor.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.



April 7, 2022

The Honorable Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington DC, 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support confirming our community's enthusiasm and support of the Lincoln Way Corridor Connectivity Project application for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) 2022 Grant Program. The goals and values set forth by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act—including safety, equity, connectivity, sustainability, quality of life, mobility and connectivity, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, and collaboration—closely align with the City Council's 2022 Goals and the pursuit of the City's Climate Action Plan that is currently underway.

The City of Ames strives to offer all residents safe connectivity and mobility throughout the community to promote education, reliable access to employment, and quality of life. The 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan approved annually by the City Council establishes a program of infrastructure investments through an equitable lens—balancing the needs of the community, the condition of roads and facilities, and public engagement throughout the development of the plan. Additionally, the City has adopted a strategy to include \$1.2 million of investment into multi-modal transportation each year of the 5-year CIP to promote carbon emissions reduction, good health, and diverse modes of transport.

Please consider our application in pursuit of a revitalizing the Lincoln Way Corridor with improvements to the roadway, multi-modal facilities, traffic network, and accessibility. We believe RAISE funding, in conjunction with the City's capital commitments, will advance the transportation goals of inclusive and equitable transportation investment, job growth, improved reliability and safety along a primary arterial transportation corridor, and reduction of emissions throughout the community and historically disadvantaged areas adjacent to the corridor.

Respectfully Submitted,

John A. Haila  
Mayor