

## RESOLUTION NO. 85-23

### A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION FOR RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS GRANT FOR 24 ROAD MULTIMODAL BRIDGE AND PATH AT I-70B PROJECT

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado that:

The City of Grand Junction by, with and through this Resolution supports the 24 Road Multimodal Bridge and Path at I-70B project.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has combined two grant programs, the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) program and the Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Program, jointly referred to as the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program, in order to streamline the process for applicants and distribute funding to eligible entities. Funds for the Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 RCN Program will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects which advance community-centered transportation connection projects (with a priority for projects that benefit disadvantaged communities), improve access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature, and recreation, and foster equitable development and restoration.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) - commonly referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), is a United States federal statute signed into law on November 15, 2021. In FY 23, this legislation allocates up to \$198 million for the RCP program. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) which was signed into law on August 16, 2022 allocates \$3.155 billion for the NAE program, of which at least 40% will be distributed to economically disadvantaged communities. Between these combined programs, the DOT has \$3.353 billion available for the FY 23 RCN Notice of Funding Opportunity.

RCN applicants will be considered across both funding programs unless they opt out of a specific program. In total for the RCN Program, the Department expects to award up to \$188 million to Community Planning Grants, \$2.718 billion to Capital Construction Grants, and \$450 million to Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants.

In accordance with the grant purposes, the City Public Works Department proposes the funds be invested to plan, design, and permit a new multimodal bridge and trail to be constructed east of the 24 Road bridge over I-70B, Union Pacific Railroad, and Riverside Parkway connecting the Riverfront Trail to the 24 Road Path at Patterson Road.

City staff is seeking \$600,000 from the US DOT's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhood Grant funds for the \$750,000 project representing a 20% match. Completion of the planning, design, and permitting project is planned for early 2025.

The City Council authorizes the expenditure of funds necessary to meet the terms and obligations, including established deadlines, of any grant award. If a grant is awarded, the City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to sign the grant agreement for the Project.

The City staff has recommended that the City Council support the grant application and if awarded that the planning grant be utilized for the 24 Road Multimodal Bridge and Path at I-70B project.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023

ATTEST:



Amy Phillips  
City Clerk

  
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Anna M. Stout  
President of the City Council

