



STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: 6

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee
and Parks and Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: June 21, 2021

Staff Contact: Dirk Goering, Senior Transportation Planner, dgoering@carson.org
Jennifer Budge, Parks, Recreation & Open Space Director, jbudge@carson.org

Agenda Title: For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action regarding a request to submit a letter of support for Carson City's Fiscal Year 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity ("RAISE") grant application for the William Street Complete Streets Project. (*Dirk Goering and Jennifer Budge*)

Staff Summary: William Street is a former State Highway that now serves as a primary commercial gateway from the I-580 Freeway into the City's downtown core. This item is for discussion and approval to authorize the Parks and Recreation Commission and Open Space Advisory Committee Chairs to sign letters of support regarding a grant application for improvements to William Street.

Agenda Action: Formal Action/Motion

Time Requested: 5 minutes

Proposed Motion

I move to approve submission of a letter of support as presented.

Board's Strategic Goal

N/A

Previous Action

June 3, 2021 Board of Supervisors

Background/Issues & Analysis

With approval by the Carson City Board of Supervisors on June 3, 2021, Carson City Public Works is pursuing a federal transportation grant (RAISE Grant) for the William Street Corridor between Carson Street and I-580. This corridor is a major east west roadway and is near Mills Park, the Community Center, the Carson City Swim Center, and the Multi-Purpose Athletic Center Facility. As with most competitive transportation grants, community support plays a major role in the evaluation and scoring of these federal grants. A project information sheet is provided as an exhibit to this report.

Carson City was selected in 2014 as one of three state capitals to work with the EPA on its Greening America's Capitals (GAC) project. The result was the development of conceptual plans to update this main, commercial corridor leading to the City's core, incorporating sustainable infrastructure that protects the environment, economy, and public health of Carson City.

As envisioned within the GAC report, the constructed project will include:

- Improved pedestrian facilities and crossings at key intersections and along East William Street.

- New infrastructure to increase bicycle comfort and safety to encourage bicycle ridership.
- Improved vehicle circulation and reduced traffic speeds to improve safety for all corridor users.
- Incorporation of green infrastructure techniques along the corridor to help manage stormwater.
- A defined sense of place and unique character along East William Street through business investment, public art installations, and attractive landscaping.
- An established gateway to downtown Carson City from US 50 E and the I-580 intersection.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

N/A

Financial Information

Is there a fiscal impact? Yes No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? Yes No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Provide staff with alternative direction for the grant application.

Parks and Recreation Commission Action Taken:

Motion: _____	1) _____	Aye/Nay
	2) _____	_____

(Vote Recorded By)

Open Space Advisory Committee Action Taken:

Motion: _____	1) _____	Aye/Nay
	2) _____	_____

(Vote Recorded By)

William Street Complete Streets Project

William Street is a former State Highway that now serves as a primary commercial gateway from the I-580 Freeway into the City's downtown core. It is closely connected to residential areas to the north and south of the corridor and separates a large community park from a large mixed-use and residential neighborhood to the north. Current conditions of the roadway—including excessive right-of-way width, poor lighting, and lack of sidewalk connectivity and safe street crossing locations—have led to pedestrian-vehicular accidents and a pedestrian death.

The underground utilities along this corridor have in most cases passed their useful lives in terms of pipe materials that have started to degrade and come apart in recent years. As part of the overall project the City would replace these worn and faulty pipes to insure there is both readily available safe drinking water as well as wastewater facilities that don't contaminate the environment.

Carson City was selected in 2014 as one of three state capitals to work with the EPA on its *Greening America's Capitals* (GAC) project¹. The result was the development of conceptual plans to update this main, commercial corridor leading to the City's core, incorporating sustainable infrastructure that protects the environment, economy, and public health of Carson City. As envisioned within the GAC report, the constructed project will include:

- Improved pedestrian facilities and crossings at key intersections and along East William Street.
- New infrastructure to increase bicycle comfort and safety to encourage bicycle ridership.
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Project at a Glance

- 1.5 miles of Commercial Corridor Improvements.
- Conceptual Plan has been completed.
- \$1.5M Design Cost, \$15M Construction Cost, Total Project \$16.5M.
- Meets 2 City Strategic Goals of Economic Development and Sustainable Infrastructure.
- There are local match funds available should a Federal grant be procured. Utility funds will be able to pay for utility replacements; however exact cost has not been determined.
- 12 months to design and 12 months of construction.



¹ https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-07/documents/gac_carson_city_final_report_508.pdf

May 24, 2021

The Honorable Pete M. Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of [REDACTED], I'm writing in support of the Carson City, Nevada FY2021 RAISE funding application for the **East William Street Corridor Project**. This critical project will transform East William Street. This important corridor serves as a primary local and regional link to the Nevada State Capitol. The project will transform the corridor from a car-centric facility to one that provides transportation opportunities for all users in a safe and efficient manner. Enhancements will transform nearby business and residential areas, setting the foundation for increased economic investment and connectivity to goods and services by all segments of the local and regional population, all while minimizing environmental impacts.

This street redesign will complement the other recently finished complete streets in Downtown Carson City and on South Carson Street, supporting Carson City's vision of elevating its downtown to a regional employment, services and entertainment destination. Enhancements will modernize the corridor to serve a more appropriate urban multimodal function, strengthening connections between downtown Carson City and the commuter communities east of I-580.

The East William Street Corridor Project will offer continuous accessible sidewalks and curb ramps, safer pedestrian crossings, improved lighting, dedicated operating space for cyclists, a buffered multi-use path, landscaping, and improved business access. Additionally, this project includes critical fiber optic infrastructure investments that will lay the foundation for future intelligent transportation system (ITS) and "Smart City" projects in Carson City.

The project has support from the local community, and I look forward to collaborating wherever needed to ensure the project will be completed by 2024, on schedule and within budget.

Through the years, Carson City has successfully partnered on numerous projects that have improved the economy and quality of life of residents. This critical project will continue the progress Carson City has made to support and improve the community. We fully support this application for the East William Street Corridor Project FY 2021 RAISE funding.

Sincerely,

Name
Title