

RESOLUTION 2023-03

AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE HIGHWAY 112: COMPLETE STREETS. CONNECTING COMMUNITIES. PROJECT

WHEREAS, the 2045 Northwest Arkansas Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), identifies improvements to Highway 112 as constrained high priority projects for the region, identifying the corridor as “crucial for regional mobility”; and

WHEREAS, the Highway 112 improvements have been programed in the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) and Northwest Arkansas Transportation Study (NARTS) 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Programs (STIP/TIP); and

WHEREAS, in 2019, NWARPC adopted the Highway 112 Access Management Plan Regional Vision to design and improve the highway “with proven access management and intersection geometric techniques to manage capacity, improve reliability, reduce congestion, and enhance the safety of all roadway users”, including the use of raised medians and roundabouts; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Northwest Arkansas Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan designation of the Heritage Springs Trail Catalyst Project, the proposed project includes a separated 12-foot-wide, shared use paved trail on one side of the highway; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced the availability of funds for nationally and regionally significant projects through the FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, NWARPC is applying for a \$25 million RAISE Grant for *Highway 112: Complete Streets. Connecting Communities.* to implement Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) proven safety countermeasures such as access management, roundabouts, raised median, and FHWA-recommended bicycle accommodations; and

WHEREAS, ARDOT supports the NWARPC’s application for the FY 2023 RAISE Grant and, if awarded, has agreed to match any awarded federal funding with non-federal state funding and to carry out the project.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

SECTION 1. That confirmation of authorization to file an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant, the approval of which will support the development of the planned 17.5-mile Highway 112 safety and mobility improvement project between Fayetteville and Bentonville, incorporating the Regional Vision and Heritage Springs Trail facility, is hereby acknowledged.

SECTION 2. That the Director is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the Commission in matters concerning this project application, and subsequent administration of the grant should it be approved.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2023

Mayor Chris Keeney, Chair, NWARPC

ATTEST: _____