

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR:** Chair Phyllis J. Randall and Members  
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

**FROM:** Monica Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

**DATE:** February 2, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Letter of Endorsement for City of Manassas Park's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Application

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1. **Purpose:** To seek Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) endorsement of City of Manassas Park's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) application.
2. **Suggested Motion:** *I move Authority approval of the Letter of Endorsement for City of Manassas Park's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity application.*
3. **Background:** As is customary among NVTA partnerships, requests for the Authority's endorsement are received from regional agencies and local jurisdictions embraced by the Authority. To help fund their transportation projects, these regional agencies and local jurisdictions pursue sources of funding through federal grants and programs. Per Code of Virginia, NVTA will serve as an advocate for the transportation needs of Northern Virginia before the state and federal governments. NVTA has received a request for endorsement from the City of Manassas Park on their application under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program.
  - A. **Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Discretionary Grant**  
The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for \$1.5 billion in grant funding through the RAISE grants. The original notice was amended on January 3, 2023, to reflect additional funding made available. In total, the Department now has at least \$2.275 billion (but no more than \$2.299 billion) available for the FY2023 RAISE Grant Program. RAISE was formerly known as BUILD and TIGER. Application deadline is 11:59:59 Eastern on February 28, 2023.

The RAISE program enables the USDOT to achieve national objectives, examining initiatives that promise to invest in road, rail, transit, and port projects on their merits to help ensure that taxpayers are getting the highest value for every dollar invested.

**B. RAISE Program Criteria:**

Projects for RAISE funding will be evaluated based on merit criteria which includes safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, opportunity, state of good repair, innovation, and partnership. Within these criteria, the Department is encouraging applicants to consider how their projects can address climate change,

ensure racial equity, and remove barriers to opportunity as well as create workforce development opportunities.

- Half of the funding will go to projects in rural areas, and half of the funding will go to projects in urban areas. At least \$15 million in funding is guaranteed to go towards projects located in Areas of Persistent Poverty or Histology Disadvantaged Communities, and projects located in these areas will be eligible for up to 100 percent federal cost share, as directed by Congress in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

#### **4. Project Scope Under City of Manassas Park's RAISE Application**

The City of Manassas Park is pursuing funding through the RAISE grant program to implement Complete Streets recommendations in Park Central. The Project implements speed management tactics, mid-block crossing treatments that represent crash reduction countermeasures, and a new street design that aligns vehicle speed with the downtown walkable environment. The project includes sustainable stormwater management design and other green infrastructure along Manassas Drive, and LED streetlight technology that dramatically reduces energy use and aligns with Dark-sky initiatives by virtually eliminating light pollution. This project is designed as a community-wide mobility project to ensure multiple forms of transportation are viable for all residents and to ensure that ongoing strategic efforts like Park Central are accessible to job seekers, families, and all residents. This project directly targets improving the mobility of the surrounding neighborhoods and disadvantaged communities to the downtown via affordable modes of transportation. Lastly, this project will improve connectivity from the public schools to the downtown area.

#### **Attachments:**

- A. City of Manassas Park's Request for Endorsement Letter**
- B. Draft Letter of Endorsement for City of Manassas Park's RAISE Application**



## CITY OF MANASSAS PARK

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[www.manassasparkva.gov/](http://www.manassasparkva.gov/)

**Mayor:**  
*Jeanette Rishell*

**Vice Mayor:**  
*Alanna Mensing*

**Council Members:**  
*Haseeb Javed*  
*Laura Hampton*  
*Yesy Amaya*  
*Darryl Moore*

**City Manager:**  
*Laszlo A. Palko*

**City Clerk:**  
*Lana A. Conner*

**City Attorney:**  
*Dean Crowhurst*

**January 23, 2023**

Monica Backmon  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)  
 3040 Williams Drive  
 Fairfax, VA 22031

RE: Request for NVTA Endorsement of the City of Manassas Park's US DOT RAISE Application

Ms. Backmon,

I am writing to request NVTA's endorsement of the City of Manassas Park's forthcoming application under the United States Department of Transportation's (US DOT) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Programs.

The City is requesting RAISE funding through the US DOT to implement Complete Streets recommendations in Park Central. The City hired a private consultant with expertise in the field to complete an assessment that was finalized in October 2022. Recommendations in the realm of pedestrian safety, improving travel speeds, enhancing the streetscape, implementing wayfinding plans, and addressing gaps in connectivity have been made in a five-year horizon starting immediately.

The City believes the Complete Streets improvements exceed in each of the eight (8) categories of merit criteria RAISE seeks to address. The project implements speed management tactics, mid-block crossing treatments that represent crash reduction countermeasures, and a new street design that aligns vehicle speed with the downtown walkable environment. The project includes sustainable stormwater management design and other green infrastructure along Manassas Drive, LED streetlight technology that (a) dramatically reduces energy use; and (b) aligns with Dark-sky initiatives by virtually eliminating light pollution and possesses very low-cost maintenance. This project is designed as a community-wide mobility project to ensure multiple forms of transportation are viable for all residents – and to ensure that ongoing strategic efforts like Park Central are accessible to job seekers, families, and all residents. This project directly targets improving the mobility of the surrounding neighborhoods and disadvantaged communities to the downtown via affordable modes of transportation. In addition to connecting the surrounding residential neighborhoods, this project will improve connectivity from the public schools to the downtown area. With walking, bicycling, and transit being the priority modes of transport, the surrounding communities will have improved connectivity by all modes of travel.

These projects are local priorities that will provide benefits on a local and regional scale. Thank you for your consideration of support and if you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at (703)-335-8809.

Sincerely,

Laszlo Palko  
 City Manager



**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**  
*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

February 9, 2023

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

Re: NVTA Endorsement of City of Manassas Park's RAISE Grant Program Application

Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), I am pleased to express our full support of the City of Manassas Park's 2023 RAISE grant program application. Funding from this grant will allow the City to improve safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity as well as attain economic competitiveness and opportunity.

The Park Central project ("Project") applies speed management tactics, mid-block crossing treatments that represent crash reduction countermeasures, and a new street design that aligns vehicle speed with the downtown walkable environment. The Project includes sustainable stormwater management design and other green infrastructure along Manassas Drive, LED streetlight technology, and possesses very low-cost maintenance. The Project is designed as a community-wide mobility project to ensure multimodal transportation for residents as well as to ensure that ongoing strategic efforts provide accessibility to job seekers, families, and residents. In addition to these elements, the City's Park Central project will connect surrounding neighborhoods, public schools, and disadvantaged communities with affordable modes of transportation.

The City of Manassas Park's Park Central project will provide benefits on a local and regional scale through their strategic and innovative implementation of Complete Streets strategies and acute focus on safety, environmental sustainability, mobility and community connectivity, and quality of life for residents, particularly those from historically disadvantaged and underserved populations. All these project impacts align well with NVTA's core values of Safety, Equity, and Sustainability.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Manassas Park's RAISE grant program application as well as your time and attention.

Best Regards,

Phyllis J. Randall  
Chair

Cc: Mayor Jeanette Rishell, City of Manassas Park  
Laszlo Palko, City Manager, City of Manassas Park  
Monica Backmon, Chief Executive Officer, NVTA