



Legislation Text

File #: RES 22-1559, **Version:** 1

Supporting Ramsey County's pursuit of a Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Discretionary Grant for the Rice Street Reconstruction Project.

WHEREAS, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established the new Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCP) discretionary grant program, funded with \$1 billion over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the RCP is to fund the reconnection of communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity including to mobility, access, or economic development; and

WHEREAS, it is the first Federal program dedicated to reconnecting communities that were previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, funding supports planning grants and capital construction grants, as well as technical assistance, to restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation, or replacement of eligible transportation infrastructure facilities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) RCP grant is to be awarded on a competitive basis to projects that will have a significant local or regional impact; and

WHEREAS, the Rice Street Reconstruction Project furthers the goals of the USDOT and the RCP grant by reducing barriers to community connectivity including to mobility, access, or economic development and addressing safety priorities; and

WHEREAS, the project proposes a full reconstruction of a two-mile segment of Rice Street, from Pennsylvania Avenue to Wheelock Parkway, that acts as a major transportation corridor and activity hub that connects residents, travelers, and visitors to a diverse intermingling of businesses, services, and institutions; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul have spent the past three years facilitating a community-driven plan for Rice Street - the Rice Street Vision Plan - to address the numerous safety, access, and traffic concerns along the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the reconstructed and redesigned Rice Street will support growing multimodal usage, increase access to locally owned commercial and employment destinations, social services, and civic institutions, promote economic growth and local investment, and create an inviting environment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the City of Saint Paul recognizes that Ramsey County will be requesting up to \$10 million for the Rice Street Reconstruction Project; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Saint Paul acknowledges Ramsey County as the legal sponsor for the RCP request for the Rice Street Reconstruction Project; and be it

FINALLY RESOLVED, the City of Saint Paul is a contributing financial partner and extends our support for the County's RCP request in the capital construction RCP grant project application.