



## STAFF REPORT

**Report To:** Board of Supervisors **Meeting Date:** June 3, 2021

**Staff Contact:** Darren Schulz, Public Works Director

**Agenda Title:** For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action regarding the submission of a Fiscal Year ("FY") 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity ("RAISE") grant application, with up to a 60% local match, for the William Street Complete Streets Project, which is currently estimated to cost \$16.9 million to complete. (Lucia Maloney, lmaloney@carson.org and Dan Stucky, dstucky@carson.org)

Staff summary: The United States Department of Transportation ("USDOT") is currently requesting project applications for FY 2021 RAISE discretionary grant funding to be submitted no later than July 12, 2021. RAISE is a re-branded grant program, formerly known as BUILD/TIGER. The purpose of the grant program is to fund critical transportation projects that promise to achieve national objectives across the country. The Public Works Department is seeking approval from the Board of Supervisors to submit a grant application to USDOT for the William Street Complete Streets Project. The City's grant policy requires any grant application over \$50,000 to be approved by the Board of Supervisors before the application is submitted by City staff.

**Agenda Action:** Formal Action / Motion **Time Requested:** 10 minutes

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### **Proposed Motion**

I move to approve the submission of a RAISE grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the William Street Complete Streets Project.

### **Board's Strategic Goal**

Sustainable Infrastructure

### **Previous Action**

On April 8, 2014, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Plan of Expenditures allocating revenue from a one-eighth of one percent (0.125%) sales tax to partially fund future public infrastructure projects in Carson City, including the William Street Complete Streets Project.

### **Background/Issues & Analysis**

USDOT has announced the opportunity for regional and local governments to apply for \$1 billion in discretionary grant funding through the RAISE program. FY 2021 RAISE grant funding will be awarded on a competitive basis and will be evaluated based on merit criteria that include safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, innovation, and partnership.

The estimated \$16.9 million William Street Complete Streets Project is proposed to span from North Carson Street to Interstate 580. The project is planned to include complete streets transportation improvements and roadway rehabilitation, as well as water, wastewater, smart traffic infrastructure, sustainable stormwater improvements, and improved vehicle circulation and safety improvements throughout the project corridor.

Beyond the infrastructure improvements, the purpose of the project is to create a sense of place and unique character along East William Street through business investment, public art installations, and attractive landscaping, as well as to establish a gateway to downtown Carson City from US 50 E and the I-580 intersection. Acquiring RAISE grant funding for this corridor will build upon Carson City's downtown revitalization and the recently improved South Carson Complete Streets Project by creating a cohesive and continuous complete streets corridor.

The City last submitted a project application for FY 2017 TIGER (now the rebranded RAISE grant) discretionary grant funding in 2017 and was successful in receiving \$7.57 million in funding to complete the South Carson Complete Streets Project.

The complete FY21 RAISE Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity can be found at:  
<https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-nofo>

#### **Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation**

NRS 268.450; The Carson City Grant Policy

#### **Financial Information**

**Is there a fiscal impact?** Yes

**If yes, account name/number:** Multiple funding accounts:

Infrastructure Tax Fund- Capital Construction Account # 3100615-507010

Redevelopment Fund- Capital Construction Account # 6037510-507010

Water Utility Fund - Capital Construction Account # 5203505-507010

Wastewater Utility Fund - Capital Construction Account # 5103205-507010

Stormwater Utility Fund - Capital Construction Account # 5053705-507010

**Is it currently budgeted?** Yes

**Explanation of Fiscal Impact:** The Federal share of project costs for which an expenditure is made under the RAISE grant program may not exceed 80 percent, unless the project is located in a rural area that receives a special exemption from the Transportation Secretary for the federal share of costs above 80 percent. Carson City is considered a rural area. However, applications that propose a larger recipient share are typically considered more competitive. The City successfully proposed a local match contribution of 60% on the previously awarded FY 2017 TIGER grant application for the South Carson Complete Streets Project and proposes to use a similar strategy for up to a maximum of 60% local match contribution for the William Street Complete Streets Project RAISE grant application. This would result in a maximum "local match" commitment of approximately \$10,140,000 on a \$16.9 million project. A portion of these local match funds have already been identified and budgeted via the different funding sources with the potential to bond for additional funds to cover the local match. Should the grant application not be approved, the project will be delayed until sufficient local funding or alternate grant opportunities can be acquired.

The Preliminary Budget for the William Street Complete Streets Project:

Infrastructure Tax Fund: \$11,400,000

Redevelopment Fund: \$385,000

Water Utility Fund: \$2,600,000

Wastewater Utility Fund: \$2,025,000

Stormwater Utility Fund: \$490,000

\*Total: \$16,900,000

\*Note that the RAISE funds could be used to offset and reduce any of the above funding source allocations.

**Alternatives**

Direct staff not to apply for the RAISE grant or provide alternative direction.

**Attachments:**

[FY 2021 RAISE NOFO Release.pdf](#)

**Board Action Taken:**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

Aye/Nay

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(Vote Recorded By)

RAISE Grants	
About RAISE	
Awarded Projects	>
RAISE 2021	>
Grant Implementation	>

Related Documents

- [Past Application List \(TIGER/BUILD\)](#)

Contact Us

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# RAISE Discretionary Grants

## U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg Announces Availability of \$1 Billion to Modernize and Create New American Infrastructure

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) today published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to apply for \$1 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 discretionary grant funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants. RAISE, formerly known as BUILD and TIGER, has awarded over \$8.935 billion in grants to projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico since 2009.

“In communities across the country, there is tremendous need for transportation projects that create high-quality jobs, improve safety, protect our environment, and generate equitable economic opportunity for all Americans,” said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. “With RAISE grants, we are making those needed investments in our communities' future.”

Projects for RAISE funding will be evaluated based on merit criteria that include safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, innovation, and partnership. Within these criteria, the Department will prioritize projects that can demonstrate improvements to racial equity, reduce impacts of climate change and create good-paying jobs.

For this round of RAISE grants, the maximum grant award is \$25 million, and no more than \$100 million can be awarded to a single State, as specified in the appropriations act. Up to \$30 million will be awarded to planning grants, including at least \$10 million to Areas of Persistent Poverty.

To ensure that the benefits of infrastructure investments benefit communities large and small the Department will award an equitable amount, not to exceed half of funding, to projects located in urban and rural areas respectively.

The program is highly competitive with 680 projects funded out of over 9700 applications. It is one of the few DOT discretionary programs for which regional and local governments can directly compete for multimodal transportation funding.

To provide technical assistance to prospective applicants, DOT is hosting a series of webinars during the FY 2021 RAISE grant application process. To register for the webinars visit [www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/outreach](http://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/outreach). The deadline to submit an application is July 12, 2021 at 5pm Eastern.

## Related Links

- [BUILD 2020 Awards](#)
- [BUILD 2019 Awards](#)
- [BUILD 2018 Awards](#)
- [TIGER 2017 Awards](#)
- [TIGER 2016 Awards](#)
- [TIGER 2015 Awards](#)
- [TIGER 2014 Awards](#)
- [TIGER 2013 Awards](#)
- [TIGER 2012 Awards](#)
- [TIGER 2011 Awards](#)
- [TIGER 2010 Capital Projects](#)
- [TIGER 2010 Planning Projects](#)
- [TIGER I Awards](#)

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