



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

### County Board Agenda Item Meeting of March 19, 2022

**\*\*\*DRAFT FOR TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION 2/28/2022\*\*\***

**DATE:** February 28, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Approval and Resolution of Support for a Grant Application to the United States Department of Transportation for the Fiscal Year 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program for the Arlington National Cemetery Wall Trail

#### **C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Approve the transmittal of an application to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 RAISE Program for \$15 million in federal funding for the Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) Wall Trail.
2. Approve the resolution of support for the RAISE program application (Attachment A)

**ISSUES:** There are no known issues at the time of this report.

**SUMMARY:** This is a request for the County Board to approve a grant application to USDOT for the FY 2022 RAISE program for the ANC Wall Trail, and to approve a resolution of support to be submitted with the grant application.

**BACKGROUND:** The FY 2022 RAISE program has \$1.5 billion in funding authorized and appropriated under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, also called the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law” or “BIL”) “for capital investments in surface transportation that will have a significant local or regional impact.” and a smaller subset of funding for planning and design of such projects. This core USDOT discretionary funding program is the current generation of the previous TIGER and BUILD program.

Capital funding award limits are a minimum of \$5 million to a maximum of \$25 million; no more than \$225 million can be awarded to a single state. The BIL provides that RAISE awards must be split 50/50 between urban and rural areas. USDOT must also consider geographic and modal diversity. RAISE is a cost-reimbursement program and not a lump sum grant award. Previous programs have been highly competitive, with a success rate of less than ten percent nationally. The federal share of funding on a RAISE award is 80 percent in urban areas, requiring a 20 percent local match.

County Manager:

County Attorney:

Staff: Rich Roisman, DES-Transportation

The RAISE merit criteria are safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness and opportunity, state of good repair, partnership and collaboration, and innovation. This application cycle also focuses on climate change impacts, environmental justice, resiliency, and advancing racial equity; applications must clearly demonstrate consideration of those factors. A robust benefit-cost analysis (BCA) is required for each application. RAISE applications are due on April 14, 2022, at 5 PM Eastern Time. The BIL mandates RAISE awards by August 12, 2022.

**DISCUSSION:** County staff recommend submitting one application to the RAISE Program due to the time and cost required to complete a RAISE application combined with the low likelihood of a funding award compared with other external transportation capital funding programs. Following a review of projects in the County’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), staff recommends applying for the ANC Wall Trail, the same project for which an application was submitted during the FY 2021 RAISE solicitation<sup>1</sup>. Seeking a RAISE award for the ANC Wall Trail connecting Columbia Pike and Memorial Avenue would best respond to the FY 2022 RAISE selection criteria, offering the likeliest success for the County to take advantage of this opportunity at this time.

The ANC Wall Trail will compete well on the RAISE merit criteria. It will also be able to clearly demonstrate project impacts on advancing racial equity. Bicycle and pedestrian access from Arlington into the District of Columbia via Memorial Bridge is impeded by the growing footprint of Arlington National Cemetery. For security reasons, the Department of Defense has prohibited movement through the cemetery and adjacent Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, making the installation and cemetery grounds effective barriers to demand for non-motorized travel to and across Memorial Bridge.

The southernmost portion of a bicycle and pedestrian connection between Columbia Pike and Memorial Avenue will be constructed as part of the ANCSE and DAR projects, within those project limits. The ANC Wall Trail project would then complete the trail to Memorial Avenue, where travelers can proceed to the District of Columbia. North of Memorial Avenue, a trail along VA 110 already exists to connect non-motorized travelers to the National Marine Corps Memorial (“Iwo Jima” Memorial) complex, where further connections can be made to the robust bicycle and pedestrian network of the Rosslyn-Ballston (R-B) Corridor. In addition, at the southern end of the ANC Wall Trail, cyclists and pedestrians will be able to connect to Columbia Pike and connect to Pentagon City via South Joyce Street following the reconstruction of the Columbia Pike / VA 27 / Joyce Street interchange.

Accordingly, the ANC Wall Trail will provide a missing link in the County and regional non-motorized network that will complete a bicycle and pedestrian connection between all three of the County’s major development corridors.

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<sup>1</sup> The FY 2021 application was not selected for funding; in fact, no capital projects in Virginia were selected for FY 2021 RAISE funding. The County has requested an application debrief from the USDOT RAISE team, but as of the writing of this report it has not yet been scheduled. The USDOT RAISE team has publicly committed to completing all FY 2021 application debriefs before the FY 2022 application deadline. Since the FY 2021 application, the County has, using local funding, engaged in review and analysis of ANC Wall Trail design concepts, with the anticipation of final design development continuing through FY 2023.

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

*Level of Engagement: Communicate*

On March 3, the Transportation Commission heard an action item on the RAISE grant application for the ANC Wall Trail and [insert results of TC action].

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The estimated cost of the ANC Wall Trail is \$25 million. A grant application for \$15 million in federal funding will be submitted to USDOT, if approved by the Board. The maximum federal share of funding on a RAISE award is 80 percent in urban areas. The County will provide the 20 percent local match and the balance of the total project funding (\$10 million total), which would be split evenly between the Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Tax and NVTa Local accounts within the Transportation Capital Fund (TCF). FY 2022 RAISE funds must be obligated through execution of a grant agreement with USDOT no later than September 30, 2026, and fully expended no later than September 30, 2031. However, the funds may be obligated earlier following award and completion of administrative activities, including execution of a grant agreement. Consequently, the grant application and obligation schedule conform to the adopted FY2022 – FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program for the ANC Wall Trail project.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION  
TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH  
SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) PROGRAM  
FOR THE ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WALL TRAIL**

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2022, the United States Department of Transportation (“USDOT”) issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (“NOFO”) for the Fiscal Year 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (“RAISE”) Program; and

WHEREAS, RAISE is a USDOT discretionary program for which local governments can directly compete for multimodal transportation funding; and

WHEREAS, the RAISE merit criteria are safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness and opportunity, state of good repair, partnership and collaboration, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, this RAISE application cycle also focuses on climate change impacts, environmental justice, resiliency, and advancing racial equity; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington, Virginia (“County Board”) desires to apply to the USDOT for an allocation of up to \$15 million in federal funding from the Fiscal Year 2022 RAISE program for the Arlington National Cemetery Wall Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Arlington National Cemetery Wall Trail project will compete well on the RAISE merit criteria, will connect Memorial Avenue to Columbia Pike, and will provide a missing link in the County and regional non-motorized network that will complete a bicycle and pedestrian connection between all three of the County’s major development corridors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County Board hereby supports the making of an application and authorizes and directs the County Manager to make an application to the USDOT for an allocation of up to \$15 million in federal funding from the Fiscal Year 2022 RAISE program for the above-described project.

ADOPTED This 19th day of March, 2022.