



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of February 18, 2023

DRAFT FOR TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DATE: January 27, 2023

SUBJECT: Application to the United States Department of Transportation for the Fiscal Year 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Approve the transmittal of an application to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 RAISE Program for \$15,000,000 in federal funding for the Arlington Memorial Trail.
2. Approve the resolution of support for the RAISE program application (Attachment A)

ISSUES: None at the time of this report.

SUMMARY: This is a request for the County Board to approve a grant application to USDOT for the FY2023 RAISE program for the Arlington Memorial Trail, and to approve a resolution of support to be submitted with the grant application.

BACKGROUND: The FY2023 RAISE program has \$2.275 billion in funding authorized and appropriated under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, also called the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law" or "BIL") and supplemental FY2023 appropriations "for investments in surface transportation that will have a significant local or regional impact, per the notice of funding opportunity.

Funding award limits under the BIL are a minimum of \$5 million to a maximum of \$25 million; no more than \$225 million in BIL funds can be awarded to a single state. The BIL provides that RAISE awards must be split 50/50 between urban and rural areas. RAISE is a cost-reimbursement program and not a lump sum grant award. Previous programs have been highly competitive. The federal share of funding on a RAISE award is 80 percent in urban areas, requiring a 20 percent local match.

The RAISE merit criteria are safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, improves mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness and opportunity, state of good repair, partnership and collaboration, and innovation. A benefit-cost analysis (BCA) and assessment of project readiness are also required for each application. RAISE applications are

County Manager:
County Attorney:
Staff: Rich Roisman, Department of Environmental Services

due on February 28, 2023, at 11:59:59 PM Eastern Time. The BIL mandates RAISE award selections be announced by June 28, 2023.

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 ensuring competitiveness of the project that staff feel best meet the scoring criteria of the program. Following a review of projects in the County’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), staff recommends applying for \$15,000,000 for the Arlington Memorial Trail, for which applications were also submitted during the FY2021 and FY2022 RAISE solicitations. The project was previously known as the Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) Wall Trail but has been renamed to clarify that it is a [County project](#) and is not being led by ANC.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division (EFLHD), under previously approved agreements with Arlington County, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and the Department of the Army (representing ANC), is designing a new, multi-use trail facility extending from the Columbia Pike realignment project in association with the federal ANC Defense Access Road and Southern Expansion projects. The Arlington Memorial Trail will continue from the eastern terminus of the Columbia Pike realignment along the west side of Washington Boulevard (VA 27) and Richmond Highway (VA 110) to Memorial Avenue immediately adjacent to the Arlington Cemetery Metrorail Station. An existing trail along the west side of VA 110 continues to Rosslyn.

Connectivity for bike-ped users across this part of the County is complicated by the combined barrier effects of secured federal facilities such as ANC, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, and the Pentagon Reservation; as well as a high-volume roadway network that includes Arlington Boulevard (US 50), VA 27, VA-110, I-395, and the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Because of the complexity of the project and study area, the project is currently being led by EFLHD and their consultant team, with support from Arlington County transportation staff.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Level of Engagement: Communicate

Outreach Methods: The Transportation Commission (TC) received briefings on the County’s FY2023 RAISE application on December 1, 2022, and on February 3, 2023. EFLHD is also currently soliciting [public comments](#) on the Arlington Memorial Trail through February 24, 2023.

Community Feedback: On February 3, 2023, the TC **voted X to Y to [insert action]**.

FISCAL IMPACT: The estimated cost of the Arlington Memorial Trail in the approved FY2023-FY2032 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is \$25,000,000. A grant application for \$15,000,000 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 (\$10,000,000), which would be primarily covered by a mix of the Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Tax and NVTA Local accounts within the Transportation Capital Fund (TCF). FY 2023 RAISE funds must be obligated through execution of a grant agreement with USDOT no later than September 30, 2027, and fully expended no later than September 30, 2032.

Attachment A

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION
TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH
SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) PROGRAM
FOR THE ARLINGTON MEMORIAL TRAIL**

WHEREAS, on January 5, 2023, the United States Department of Transportation (“USDOT”) issued the full amended Notice of Funding Opportunity (“NOFO”) for the Fiscal Year 2023 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, the County Board of Arlington, Virginia (“County Board”) desires to apply to the USDOT for \$15,000,000 in federal funding from the Fiscal Year 2023 RAISE program for the Arlington Memorial Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Arlington Memorial 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 \$15,000,000 in federal funding from the Fiscal Year 2023 RAISE program for the Arlington Memorial Trail.

ADOPTED February 18, 2023