



Commission Meeting

Meeting Date: 06/06/2023

AO Extending the Common Grant

Department:	Office of the Administrator
Presenter:	Daniel Evans
Caption:	Motion to approve acceptance of grant award from the Governor's Office's <i>Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionally Impacted Communities</i> grant program for the <i>Extending the Common: Bridging Recreation and Commerce in Downtown Augusta</i> project.
Background:	<p>In response to the growing need for recreation opportunities for underserved portions of communities across Georgia, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget made grant funds available to local municipalities through the <i>Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionally Impacted Communities</i> program. This program is designed to fund investments in neighborhood features, including parks, recreation facilities, sidewalks, and healthy food access, so residents can work to improve physical and mental health outcomes.</p> <p>Award announcements for the <i>Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionately Impacted Communities</i> grant program were made on 5/18/23 and Augusta was selected as an Awardee for multiple grant projects, including the <i>Extending the Common: Bridging Recreation and Commerce in Downtown Augusta</i> project. The <i>Extending the Common</i> project was awarded \$1,776,336 to support this development.</p> <p>This project includes improvements to a central connector in the downtown Augusta community. The intent is to enhance the functionality of this section of Jones Street and Jones Street Alley while creating an extension of the Augusta Common and linkage from the Common to the Convention Center.</p> <p>The Jones Street improvements will allow for optimized functions at the Augusta Convention Center and surrounding retail, restaurants, and hotels through the improved access options. They will enhance the State transportation project updates along James Brown Boulevard and provide a more cohesive linkage to the refreshed finish of the surrounding buildings.</p>
Analysis:	Acceptance of these Grant Funds from the Governor's Office will allow Augusta to enhance the economic viability of the Downtown Central

Business District and improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for residents and visitors to Augusta, Georgia.

Financial Impact: The Grant Funds require an In-Kind Match from Augusta, Georgia in the amount of \$394,288 (\$80,288 in Construction Management and \$314,000 in private investment). Funds are available to satisfy this In-Kind Match Requirement through Augusta, Georgia and private partners.

Alternatives: Do not approve receipt of these Grant Funds from the Governor's Office to enhance the economic viability of the Downtown Central Business District and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors to Augusta, Georgia.

Recommendation: Approve acceptance of grant award from the Governor's Office *Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionally Impacted Communities* grant program for the *Extending the Common: Bridging Recreation and Commerce in Downtown Augusta*

Funds are available in the following accounts: N/A

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY: N/A