

RESOLUTION 2025-057
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AGREEMENT REGARDING A GRANT OF FUNDS FOR
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE INTERSECTION OF VINE DRIVE AND
JEROME STREET BETWEEN THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS AND THE
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

A. The purpose of this item is to enable the City to receive and expend Downtown Development Authority (“DDA”) grant funds for the Vine Drive and Jerome Street Intersection Improvements project (“Project”). The funds will be used for outreach, design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction for improvements at the intersection of Vine Drive and Jerome Street.

B. East Vine Drive and Jerome Street intersect in northeast Fort Collins, just north of the Poudre River Whitewater Park. The City’s current Master Street Plan (adopted December 2023) designates Vine Drive and Jerome Street as two-lane collectors.

C. Currently, traffic on Jerome Street is controlled by a four way stop sign at the intersection of Jerome Street and Vine Drive, but there are no crossing facilities at the intersection. The City’s Active Modes Plan (adopted December 2022) recommends pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements at the intersection. The City’s North College MAX Bus Rapid Transit Plan also recommends a roadway crossing improvement at Vine Drive and Jerome Street as a key improvement to support active mode use in the North College area and improve access to public transportation.

D. The City’s Strategic Trails Plan, which is in development and scheduled to go before City Council for adoption on July 1, 2025, includes a proposed trails map that depicts a trail connection between northeast Fort Collins and the Whitewater Park through this intersection. This regional trail extension was originally identified in the 2013 Paved Recreational Trails Plan and has been carried over through the update of the Strategic Trails Plan.

E. As northeast Fort Collins continues to grow, the number of people walking, biking, and engaged in other active modes of transportation will increase through this intersection, which is a gateway and connection point between northeast Fort Collins and destinations such as the Whitewater Park, the Poudre River Trail, and Old Town Fort Collins.

F. An active modes traffic count and observation study was performed in August of 2024. The observations in the study indicate the need for intersection crossing improvements. These observations include data establishing that 36% of bicyclists observed cut diagonally through the intersection, crossing the yellow road centerline rather than completing a full turn; 26% of all bicyclists observed rode on the sidewalk;

bicyclists rode the wrong way in the Vine bike lane to access a sidewalk ramp; bicyclists traveled the wrong way in a bike lane; and pedestrians crossed where no sidewalk exists.

G. In June 2021, a person riding a bike was killed in a crash at this intersection.

H. City staff representing FC Moves, Park Planning and Development, Traffic Operations, and Engineering have developed the Project to address these safety and infrastructure concerns. A conceptual proposed plan for the Project includes the following:

- Two-way pedestrian crossing of Vine Drive on the east side of Jerome Street
- Bicycle crossings (northbound and southbound) of Vine Drive on either side of Jerome Street;
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (“RRFBs”) with push buttons for pedestrians and cyclists;
- Protected bike corner island on the west side of Jerome Street intended to reduce right turn speeds and protect cyclists waiting to activate the beacon and cross the street;
- Improved and widened sidepath (trail) on the south side of the intersection (Vine Drive) with Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) compliant ramps, connecting to the Whitewater Park and Poudre River Trail;
- Widened sidepath (trail) on the east side of Jerome Street to serve as the northeast trail extension; and
- New striping, signing, and marking of the intersection to safely facilitate pedestrian and bicycle movements.

I. Portions of the Project site lie within the North College Urban Renewal Authority (“URA”) area, north of Vine Drive and the DDA boundary, south of Vine Drive.

J. Staff attended the URA Board in January 2025, presented the Project, and requested financial participation in the Project. The URA voted to contribute \$293,076 toward the Project.

K. Staff went to the DDA’s Director’s Meeting in February 2025, presented the Project, and requested financial participation. The DDA voted to contribute \$82,659 toward the Project as well as \$61,341 toward urban design elements for the active modes gateway to Old Town.

L. Project funding also includes traditional transportation capital project funding from Community Capital Improvement Program (“CCIP”) bicycle and pedestrian funds, Transportation Capital Expansion Fees, and Transportation Services funds. The Conservation Trust Fund is contributing funding for elements of the northeast trail system included in the Project. Transfers of the 2050 Tax – Our Climate Future funds from two similar and completed active modes related projects (Centre Avenue Crossing Improvements and Laporte Avenue Bike Lanes) will also help fund the Project. The Our Climate Future Executive Committee was consulted on these transfers and agrees with the alignment between the original projects and this Project.

M. For the DDA funding, the DDA has proposed an IGA with the City, approved by the DDA's Board of Directors on February 13, 2025, to cooperate in the preparation and design for the Project.

N. The IGA funds are anticipated to be appropriated via Ordinance No. 085, 2025, and used for outreach, design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction for the Project.

O. Colorado Revised Statutes Section 29-1-203 provides that governments may cooperate or contract with one another to provide certain services or facilities when the cooperation or contracts are authorized by each party thereto with the approval of its legislative body or other authority having the power to so approve.

P. City Charter Article II, Section 16 empowers the City Council, by ordinance or resolution, to enter into contracts with governmental bodies to furnish governmental services and make charges for such services or enter into cooperative or joint activities with other governmental bodies.

Q. City Code Section 1-22 requires the City Council to approve intergovernmental agreements that require the City to make a direct, monetary payment over \$50,000, and funds anticipated to be appropriated pursuant to this IGA and for the overall Project amount to \$955,876.40. City staff recommends that the City Council appropriate funds in this amount by separate ordinance.

R. The City Council finds and determines that the Project and the DDA grant funding are in the best interests of the City, that they advance the public's health, safety, and welfare by facilitating improvement of the City's multimodal transportation safety and infrastructure and streetscapes, and that the Mayor be authorized to execute the IGA between the City and the DDA in support thereof.

In light of the foregoing recitals, which the Council hereby makes and adopts as determinations and findings, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. The City Council authorizes the Mayor to execute, on behalf of the City, the intergovernmental agreement with the Downtown Development Authority, in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, with additional or modified terms and conditions as the City Manager, in consultation with the City Attorney, determines to be necessary and appropriate to protect the interests of the City or effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

Section 2. The City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to approve and execute future amendments to the intergovernmental agreement with the Downtown Development Authority relating to the Project that the City Manager, in consultation with the City Attorney, determines to be necessary and appropriate to facilitate completion of

the Project, so long as such amendments do not increase the cost of the Project, substantially modify the purposes of the intergovernmental agreement, increase the allocation or amount of funding for the Project funded by the City, or otherwise increase the obligations and responsibilities of the City as set forth in the intergovernmental agreement.

Passed and adopted on May 20, 2025.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Effective Date: May 20, 2025

Approving Attorney: Heather N. Jarvis

Exhibit A: Intergovernmental Agreement with the Downtown Development Authority