

# Memorandum



To: Mayor Jenn Weaver  
Town Board members

From: Margaret A. Hauth, Assistant Town Manager  
Matt Efird, Assistant Town Manager  
Stephanie Trueblood, Public Space and Sustainability Manager

Date: Jan. 12, 2023

Subject: Update on funding for bicycle and pedestrian priorities

Various funding opportunities for infrastructure projects have been released under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)<sup>1</sup> and many other programs. This generates a lot of excitement about possible improvements within a community. Staff have been reviewing the funding announcements, looking for projects that align with the town's adopted transportation priorities from September. As the board will remember, the town does not have "shovel ready" projects looking for funding. Our highest priorities all need design and engineering work.

The RAISE grant program has an application deadline of February 28, so it has been the focus of our most recent research. This program awards funds for both design and construction. We believe combination requests (i.e. design-build) are allowable. This is a highly competitive program which requires significant data to support the request, along with active communication with federal staff and elected officials to be successful. We are not aware of a project that was funded on its first attempt.

We do believe this program might be a good fit for the Ridgewalk greenway connecting downtown to the future train station and Waterstone. Staff have developed the following general schedule:

During the remainder of FY23 and first part of FY24:

- Continue the feasibility level study for this project to determine that this is a viable project.
- The greenway feasibility study will be a major component and is expected to complete by June 2023.
- Coordinate with Collins Ridge to determine the schedule for the portion of the trail they are obligated to construct.
- Review the RAISE guidance closely to identify needed work to make the project more competitive
  - This may require some consultant assistance from firms that specialize in grant support
    - This advice may identify other or additional funding options to be pursued.
  - This may require a market analysis related to the town's land near the train station and future uses that could be expected.

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<sup>1</sup> Also commonly referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

#### Mid FY24

- Check-in discussion to determine whether pursuing this opportunity is still in the town's interest.
- If so, determine whether further grant writing or Benefit Cost Analysis assistance is needed from outside.
- Identify contacts at the federal level who can help support a grant application.

#### File application in FY24

- Hope for sufficiently high rating to access technical feedback from federal staff in the RAISE office to identify how to improve the application for FY25.

This schedule aligns well with available staff capacity and related construction and planning projects.