



AGENDA ITEM ANALYSIS

Project/Issue Name: 25-R-04 A Resolution of the City Council Authorizing the City to Apply for Grant Funds through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program, the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program, and Other Similar Discretionary Programs to be used toward the Route MM Expansion Project.

Submitted By: Karen Haynes, Community Development Director

Date: January 21st, 2025

Issue Statement

The City of Republic is requesting Council authorization to apply for discretionary grant funds to complete the Highway MM Expansion Project in partnership with Ozarks Transportation Organization. The RAISE grant application is due January 30th, 2025. The due date for the Rural Surface Transportation Grant, recommended by the National League of Cities, has not yet been set. Staff will continue to identify other opportunities that can be applied for in 2025. It is likely that a new administration will have new grant initiatives.

Discussion and/or Analysis

Ozarks Transportation Organization and the City of Republic are diligently working to fill the funding gap for the Highway MM Expansion Project. The City of Republic currently estimates the need for an additional \$10 million to complete the B Segment that runs between I-44 and MO-360. Additionally, MoDOT's E Segment that runs between MO-360 and Haile Street is only partially funded. City Staff request the flexibility to determine the final grant budget based on the most recent preliminary engineering estimates, however, the City's match contribution shall not exceed \$1,300,000.

The City of Republic has received consulting support from the National League of Cities and will be updating their 2024 applications based on their feedback. The City's grant applications have historically scored well in the RAISE program and appear to have scored well in the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program. The National League of Cities noted that the Rural program was a better fit for MM.

The October 2024 "Infrastructure Equity in Motion" report produced by the Urban Institute analyzed RAISE awards from 2009 to 2024 and found that the Trump Administration favored highway widening whereas Obama and Biden's Administrations favored transit, cycling, and pedestrian projects. We believe the National League of Cities' consultation support, changes in administrative priorities, and the broadening of our grant application efforts will increase our odds of receiving grant funds for MM.

Recommended Action

Staff recommends approval.