



CITY of WILMINGTON North Carolina

ITEM R1

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9/4/2018

City Council
City Hall
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

The City staff has been made aware of an important opportunity to apply for federal grant funding that would support a transformative strategic priority of City Council-- the realignment of the existing freight rail line that runs through the center of the City to the North Carolina Ports in town.

This grant from the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) will provide funds for further engineering and the completion of studies for the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) document, which is necessary to validate the viability of the project. This process is required for the development of any significant transportation facility.

The grant award request is for \$2,000,000 from the FRA and the expected costs are as follows:

Task	Task Name/Project Component	Cost	% of total cost
1	Engineering Report, Identify NEPA Study Type	\$ 500,000.00	20.0%
2	NEPA Study and Document	\$2,000,000.00	80.0%
	TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$2,500,000.00	100.0%

A minimum 20% cash match of \$500,000 is required in support of the \$2,000,000 Federal grant. Submittal of the grant application is contingent upon the provision of the cash match from non-FRA funding sources.

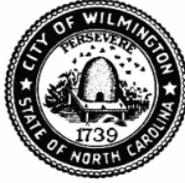
If the City is successful in receiving this grant award, it would be in the best interest of the project, long term, for City Council to commit and appropriate City funds for up to the full amount of the grant match; \$500,000. The actual amount of the City obligation can be offset by financial support from other local stakeholders. Any award acceptance will also require City Council approval.

Passage of the attached Resolution is recommended.

Respectfully submitted,

Sterling B. Cheatham,
City Manager

Resolution



City Council
City of Wilmington
North Carolina

Introduced By: Sterling B. Cheatham, City Manager

Date: 9/4/2018

Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for Grant funding to Support the Wilmington Rail Line Realignment Project

LEGISLATIVE INTENT/PURPOSE:

Whereas, the City staff has been made aware of an important opportunity to apply for federal grant funding that would support a transformative strategic priority of City Council, the realignment of the existing freight rail line that runs through the center of the City to the North Carolina Ports in town; and

Whereas, the City has been made aware of a grant through the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) that would support the further engineering and related efforts to complete the necessary studies of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process --which is crucial to validate the viability of the project, and

Whereas, the grant award request is \$2,000,000; and

Whereas, a minimum 20% cash match of \$500,000 is required in support of the \$2,000,000 grant; and

Whereas, submittal of the grant application is contingent upon the provision of the cash match from non-FRA funding sources; and

Whereas, this is one of many grant opportunities to help move this project forward; and

Whereas, any award acceptance will require City Council approval.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, the Wilmington City Council hereby approves the grant application to FRA in the amount of \$2,000,000 to support the Wilmington Rail Line Realignment Initiative; and

That, the City will be responsible for the local grant match of up to \$500,000 excluding contributions made by other local stakeholders; and

That, the City Manager is hereby authorized to do all things necessary to carry out the requirements of the grant.

Adopted at a _____ meeting
on _____ 2018

Bill Saffo, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Penelope Spicer-Sidbury, City Clerk

City Attorney