TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RE: APPROVAL OF A ‘RAISE’ GRANT APPLICATION FOR MULTIPLE PROJECTS INCLUDING, RECONSTRUCTION OF BAINBRIDGE STREET

WHEREAS, La Crosse County has acknowledged that there is insufficient funding to complete all identified County Roads capital improvements projects; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation offers the "Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity" (RAISE) Grants Program to provide dedicated, discretionary funding for transportation infrastructure projects of local or regional impact; and

WHEREAS, applications for the FY 2021 RAISE Transportation Grants Program are currently being solicited; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2021 Appropriations Act directs that funds provided for RAISE Transportation Grants be divided not more than 50 percent for rural areas and 50 percent for urbanized areas and requires measures to ensure an equitable geographic distribution of grant funds and an appropriate balance in addressing the needs of urban and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, eligible projects for RAISE Transportation Grants include surface transportation capital projects including highway, bridge, or other road projects as well as public transportation projects, passenger and freight rail transportation projects, port infrastructure investments, and intermodal projects; and

WHEREAS, La Crosse County is considered a “rural area” per RAISE grant requirements and the maximum award for this round of RAISE Transportation Grants is $25 million; and

WHEREAS, La Crosse County will work in partnership with the City of La Crosse, (City) and the La Crosse County Harbor Commission (LCHC) and the La Crosse Municipal Airport; and

WHEREAS, The proposed Project will improve access to reliable, safe, and affordable transportation for communities in rural areas; improve infrastructure condition; address public health and safety; promote regional connectivity; facilitate economic growth or competitiveness and address deteriorating conditions on rural transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Project will support the Administration’s priorities for creating good paying jobs, improving safety, applying transformative technology, and addressing climate change and advancing racial equity; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will improve access to reliable, safe and affordable transportation for communities in rural areas, improve infrastructure condition, address public health and safety, promote regional connectivity, facilitate economic growth or competitiveness and addresses deteriorating conditions on rural transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, although there is a local match component to the RAISE project, the improvements to Fanta Reed Rd and Bainbridge St (CTH B) are projects that have already been approved in the Highway 2021 road plan as part of the 2021 budget; and
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WHEREAS, La Crosse County will be able to provide funding towards the local match and partner with the City, and the LCHC to contribute to the overall local match and project funding as identified in the RAISE grant application, which includes the use of funding programmed for maintenance, secured funding through other grant programs, and additional program funding as applicable; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of La Crosse County to apply for this grant again and to sign all necessary contracts to implement this program;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Board hereby approves the application for the 2021 RAISE Grant for this partnership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board Chair is hereby authorized to sign all necessary documents required for this application, after approval by Corporation Counsel.

FISCAL NOTE: The County’s portion of the Local Match is estimated at $4,260,000 and the grant application amount to La Crosse County is estimated at $6,360,000. The overall grant applied for, including all partners, is $14,800,000 at roughly a 36% local match amount.

DATE: July 6, 2021

Maureen Freedland
PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE CHAIR

July 6, 2021
Carrie A. Heid
RECORDING CLERK

Reviewed
Co. Admin. Only
Recommnended
Not Recommended
Requested By: Charlie Handy
Date Requested: April 28, 2021
Drafted By: Corporation Counsel

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 15 Day of July, 2021

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE
I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 15th day of July 2021.

Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk