

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-08

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING APPLICATION FOR A
BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENT TO LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) GRANT
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MULTIPLE INTERCONNECTED AND OUTSTANDING
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, The City of Brevard has long valued quality transportation infrastructure to meet the needs of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, this value has expressed itself through numerous public input efforts, planning processes, and studies conducted in concert with the NC Department of Transportation and the Regional Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Brevard, City Council and other organizations such as the Heart of Brevard, a Main Street program, and the Chamber of Commerce have worked to cultivate the City's unique geographic position to the Pisgah National Forest, Blue Ridge Mountains, DuPont State Forest, Gorges State Park and Bracken Preserve, its unique downtown and its historic built environment; and

WHEREAS, Brevard was recently selected as the 50th Blue Zone Project Community in North America and the first in North Carolina and South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard and its citizens have worked to develop these assets to transform their economy following the closure of the three largest manufacturing plants including (Ecusta (P.H. Glatfelter), DuPont and Coats North America) and the loss of over 2,200 manufacturing jobs; and

WHEREAS, the City, on its own and in partnership with other regional entities, has invested in multiple transportation related plans including the: Downtown Masterplans of 2002 and 2012, the Comprehensive Transportation Plan of 2007 and 2025, the Brevard Bicycle-Friendly Community Improvement Plan of 2018, the Transylvania County Bicycle Plan of 2019, the Blue Ridge Regional Bike Plan, and the Brevard Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan of 2006 and 2018, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, these plans and investments confirm a strong interest and desire to provide more efficient and equitable alternative modes of transportation such as pedestrian, bike, and transit in coordination with traditional vehicular use corridors in and around Brevard; and

WHEREAS, significant investments to implement these plans and interests have been made by the City and other transportation related partners as opportunities and funding have allowed; and

WHEREAS, Brevard understands that a safe, reliable, affordable and accessible transportation system is essential to the quality of life of all of our residents and to the health and vitality of our economy; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation has issued another round of its Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grant funding; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 BUILD grant is providing \$1 billion of funding for planning and capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure that will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that have a significant local or regional impact; and

WHEREAS, BUILD funding can support roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation that include, implement or enhance safety, economic competitiveness, quality of life, environmental sustainability, state of good repair, innovation, and partnerships; and

WHEREAS, fifty percent of the 2020 BUILD Transportation grant is appropriated to support projects located in rural areas that deliver positive benefits for these communities: and

WHEREAS, Brevard is a rural community and has multiple transportation infrastructure needs, as outlined in the aforementioned plans, that require alternative funding sources to advance; and

WHEREAS, the BUILD grant program is a robust alternative funding source for transportation infrastructure needs, however it is also an extremely competitive nationwide program necessitating one to consider a robust funding match, a thorough and thoughtful application and demonstration of sound, strategic planning practices, past investments, commitment and capacity; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 BUILD grant allows award grantees until September 30, 2022 to obligate the grant funds via an authorized written grant agreement and provides grantees until September 30, 2027 to expend or liquidate the awarded grant; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 BUILD applications are due by May 18, 2020 at 5:00 pm and notification of awards are expected on or before September 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City has prioritized certain transportation projects that are in varying stages of status and funding availability that, if implemented simultaneously, will significantly achieve our desire to provide interconnectivity and further the City's ability to support the health of individuals and the greater community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA THAT:

SECTION 1. The City Manager is hereby authorized to apply for a BUILD grant and accept funding from for the implementation of:

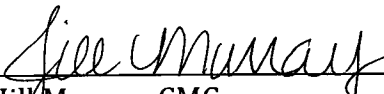
1. the Downtown Masterplan Streetscape Projects of Broad Street and Main Street, and
2. completion of the Estatoe Trail segments from Depot Railroad Avenue Park to connect to the Rosenwald Community, Mary C. Jenkins Community Center, Silversteen and Tannery Parks and terminating at Brevard High School, and
3. construction of a pedestrian tunnel for the Estatoe Trail in conjunction with the NCDOT Asheville Hwy Improvements Project.


SECTION 2. The City Manager is hereby authorized to commit up to \$4 million as a local match to support a BUILD grant request of approximately \$15 million to advance multiple projects.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption and approval.

Adopted and approved upon first reading this the 20th day of April, 2020.

ATTEST:


Jil Murray, CMC
City Clerk


Jimmy Harris
Mayor