

Appendix D

Funding Commitment Letter & Resolutions



COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

P.O. Box 7800 • 315 W. Main St., Suite 308 • Tavares, FL 32778

May 24, 2021

Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing this letter to provide evidence of the financial commitment of Lake County and its municipal partners; the City of Tavares and the City of Mt. Dora, for design and construction of the Wekiva Trail segment 1 and segment 5. Segment 2 has been funded by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for right of way acquisition and segments 3 and 4 are currently under construction. This project is a Rails to Trails Multi-Modal Recreational Trail that will provide access to all income levels with low environmental impact and significant economic benefit to the area.

If the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant is awarded to Lake County, we would explore a short-term line of credit as needed to fund the project until reimbursements are received from the US Department of Transportation. Segments 1 and 5 will travel through portions of Tavares, Mt. Dora, and unincorporated Lake County. Each entity will share the cost of interest incurred for the line of credit as well as the ongoing maintenance and operation of the trail.

This project will improve infrastructure condition, address public health and safety, promote regional connectivity, and facilitate economic growth.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alan Rosen, MPA
County Manager

AR/jb

P 352.343.9888 • F 352.343.9495

Board of County Commissioners • www.lakecountyfl.gov

Douglas B. Shields
District 1

Sean M. Parks, AICP, QEP
District 2

Kirby Smith
District 3

Leslie Campione
District 4

Josh Blake
District 5

RESOLUTION 2021 - 10

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA; AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF TAVARES TO PARTNER WITH LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA, TO SUBMIT A 2021 REBUILDING AMERICA INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE WEKIVA TRAIL EXTENSION PROJECT – SEGMENT 1 AND SEGMENT 5 TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR AS THE CITY’S DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE SUPPLEMENTS TO THE APPLICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. 116-260, December 27, 2020) (“FY 2021 Appropriations Act”) appropriated One Billion Dollars (\$1,000,000,000) to be awarded by the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) for National Infrastructure Investments know as Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area or a region; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2021, US DOT announced availability of funding for National Infrastructure Investments and requested applications for the 2021 RAISE Grant; and

WHEREAS, Lake County, Florida, the City of Tavares, Florida, and the City of Mount Dora, Florida (the “Agencies”) have an opportunity to submit a 2021 RAISE Grant application to US DOT for the Wekiva Trail Extension Project – Segment 1 and Segment 5; and

WHEREAS, based on the 2010 Census and the 2021 RAISE Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity, the Wekiva Trail Extension Project – Segment 1 and Segment 5 is entirely located outside of the census-designated urbanized area, therefore, it is considered by the US DOT as a rural project and may be awarded up to 100 percent of project costs; and

WHEREAS, the Agencies agree to be responsible and fund costs associated with maintenance and operation of the project in their respective jurisdictional boundaries, should the 2021 RAISE Grant be awarded to the Agencies; and

WHEREAS, The City of Tavares, other Agencies, Lake County and City of Mount Dora have determined that they will have sufficient funds to provide necessary cashflow on a grant reimbursement basis during design and construction of the Wekiva Trail Extension Project, should the 2021 RAISE Grant be awarded to the County; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Tavares, Florida finds that adoption of this Resolution and submission of a 2021 RAISE Grant application in Partnership with Lake County, Florida, and the City of Mount Dora for the Wekiva Trail Extension Project is in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare of the County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Tavares, Florida, as follows:

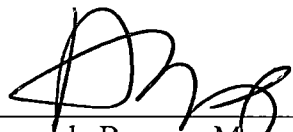
Section 1. The recitals above are incorporated herein.

Section 2. The City Administrator of the City of Tavares, in partnership with Lake County, and the City of Mount Dora, is authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the City of Tavares City Council a 2021 RAISE Grant application and related documents for the Wekiva Trail Extension Project – Segment 1 and Segment 5. The City Administrator in Partnership with Lake County, Florida, and the City of Mount Dora is further authorized to execute and deliver supplements to such 2021 RAISE Grant application if needed or advised.

Section 3. If the Agencies are awarded the 2021 RAISE Grant funding for the Wekiva Trail Extension Project – Segment 1 and Segment 5, then the City of Tavares along with Lake County, Florida, and the City of Mount Dora, Florida covenants to budget and appropriate funds for the implementation and operation and maintenance of the Wekiva Trail Extension Project – Segment 1 and Segment 5.

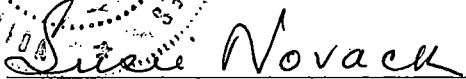
Section 4. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASS AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of June 2021.

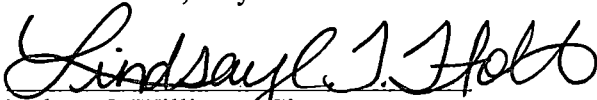


Amanda Boggus, Mayor
City Council, City of Tavares, Florida





Susie Novack, City Clerk

for 

Robert Q Williams, City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-80

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING STAFF TO SUBMIT, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF TAVARES AND THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA, A 2021 REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE WEKIVA TRAIL EXTENSION PROJECT-SEGMENT 1 AND SEGMENT 5 TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has appropriated funding to be awarded by the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) for National Infrastructure Investments on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area, or a region; and

WHEREAS, US DOT has announced availability of funding for National Infrastructure Investments and requested applications for the 2021 RAISE Grant, which was formally known as the 2021 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant; and

WHEREAS, Lake County, the City of Tavares, and the City of Mount Dora (“the Agencies”) have an opportunity to submit a 2021 RAISE Grant application to US DOT for the Wekiva Trail Extension Project – Segment 1 and Segment 5, (“the Project”); and

WHEREAS, the 2021 RAISE Grant may be used for up to Eighty Percent (80%) of the costs of a project located in an urban area; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Transportation may increase the Federal share of the costs above 80% for a project located in a rural area; and

WHEREAS, the Project is located in both urban and rural areas, most of the Project’s costs will be spent in a rural area, and will be designated as a rural project; and

WHEREAS, based on the 2010 Census and the 2021 RAISE Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity, the Wekiva Trail Extension Project – Segment 1 and Segment 5 is entirely located outside of the census-designated urbanized area, therefore, it is considered by the US DOT as a rural project; and

WHEREAS, the Agencies agree to be responsible and fund costs associated with maintenance and operation of the Project, should the 2021 RAISE Grant be awarded to the Agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that the adoption of this Resolution and submission of a 2021 RAISE Grant application is in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of Lake County, Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Lake County, Florida:

Section 1. The recitals above are incorporated herein.

Section 2. The Board of County Commissioners of Lake County, Florida, supports and authorizes staff to submit a 2021 RAISE Grant application, and any other supporting documentation, for the Wekiva Trail Extension Project - Segment 1 and Segment 5 to the Department of Transportation.

Section 3. If the County is awarded the 2021 RAISE Grant funding for the Project, the three governmental agencies shall share the cost of the operation and maintenance of the trail project improvements. A separate agreement will be negotiated and brought back to each entity for approval.

Section 4. This Resolution supersedes the previously adopted Resolution 2021-60.

Section 5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 25th day of May, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA

[Signature]
Sean M. Parks, Chairman

This 26th day of May, 2021.

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Gary J. Cooney, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
of Lake County, Florida



Approved as to form and legality:

[Signature]
Melanie Marsh, County Attorney

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER
AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

DATE: 04/20/2021 **MEETING DATE:** 5/25/2021
TO: Alan Rosen, County Manager **ITEM TYPE:** Consent Item
THRU: Fred Schneider, Assistant County Manager **ITEM ID:** 14696
BY: Lynn McGee, Office Associate III
SUBJECT: RAISE Grant support and application for the Wekiva Trail in Tavares, Mount Dora, and Sorrento.

RECOMMENDATION/REQUIRED ACTION: Approve

Request approval of a corrected resolution supporting and authorizing County staff to apply for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for funding of design, right of way acquisition, and construction of the Wekiva Trail segment 1 and segment 5 in Tavares, Mount Dora, and Sorrento.

The fiscal impact is \$13,000.00 (expenditure) for the application preparation cost and is within, and will not exceed, the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget. After construction, the anticipated annual fiscal impact to the County for maintenance of the approximate 4 miles of the 11.5 mile length, is \$23,000.00 to be funded from the Parks Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU). Commission Districts 3 and 4.

BACKGROUND SUMMARY: Resolution 2021-60 was approved by the Board of County Commissioners (Board)-on April 13, 2021. The grant name changed from Federal Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) to Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE).

The Wekiva Trail segment 5 begins at Wooten Park in Tavares and extends 5.5 miles to Tremain Street in Mount Dora. Segment 1 of the trail then extends an additional 5.5 miles from Mount Dora to Sorrento. These projects provide a continuous 11.5-mile-long multi-use trail corridor from Tavares through Mount Dora to the unincorporated community of Sorrento.

The projects have been adopted as priorities in the Lake County Trails Master Plan. The trails are proposed to be located on existing rail bed currently under ownership of CSX Corporation and leased by Regional Rail, LLC, and will need to be purchased. The Wekiva Trail Project Development and Environment Study (PD&E) for segment one funded by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was completed in February 2017. The FDOT also completed a corridor study in February 2021 for segment five. Lake County has funded a PD&E study for the Wekiva Trail Segment 5 which is currently in development.

The Grant application is for funding of engineering, right of way acquisition, and construction of the Wekiva Trail Segment 1 and Segment 5 projects. Lake County, Tavares, and Mount Dora will jointly prepare a RAISE grant application, with the County serving as the applicant. It is

anticipated that a RAISE grant award could be up to \$25,000,000.00.

The remaining segments of the Wekiva Trail are programmed by FDOT. Segment 2 has been funded for right of way acquisition. Segments 3 and 4 are currently under construction. Segment 3 will extend south into Orange County to Kelly Park/Rock Springs and the City of Apopka. Segment 4 takes the trail to the Wekiva River and into Seminole County and is part of the Wekiva Parkway Project. The construction of Lake County's portion of Segment 4 trail is complete.

The proposed resolution will be forwarded to the Federal Highway Administration reflecting Board support of the RAISE Grant application, and commitment to share the operation and maintenance of the trail with the Cities of Tavares and Mount Dora upon completion of construction. If the grant is awarded, the Board will need to consider funding options with the most likely option being a short term line of credit to cash flow the contractor payments until reimbursed by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT). The County, City of Mount Dora and City of Tavares will share the cost of interest incurred on the short-term borrowing which is estimated to be \$40,000.00 each.

The City of Tavares, City of Mount Dora, and Lake County will each provide one third cost share of the \$39,000.00 consultant fee under contract with Tavares to provide the background documents for the application. The trail will be maintained by the County in unincorporated areas, and by the Cities in their respective jurisdictional city limits. An interlocal agreement will be brought back to the Board for consideration at a future meeting.

Fiscal Impact: \$13,000 - expenditure

Account No.:

Fund Name	Fund Number	Org Code	Object Code	Project Number	Amount
General Fund	0010	9092001	830310		\$13,000.00

Advertised Date:

Paper:

Attachments:

1.	Item 13958-3.23.2021
2.	RAISE Grant Resolution
3.	RAISE Application Map
4.	Wekiva Trail Map - Segments 1 through 5 (3)

STAFF APPROVALS AND DATES:

Lynn McGee	Created/Initiated - 4/20/2021
Sandy Beckett	Approved - 4/20/2021
Jeffrey Earhart	Approved - 4/20/2021
Kerri Andrews	Approved - 4/20/2021
Fred Schneider	Approved - 4/20/2021
Miranda Lanoue	Approved - 4/20/2021
April Allman	Approved - 4/28/2021
Jo Anne Drury	Approved - 5/3/2021

Fred Schneider	Approved - 5/4/2021
Allison Teslia	Approved - 5/4/2021
Jennifer Barker	Approved - 5/7/2021
Alan Rosen	Approved - 5/7/2021
Melanie Marsh	Approved - 5/13/2021
Misty Spahn	Final Approval - 5/14/2021

ACTION TAKEN BY BOARD:

Action: New

Continued/Deferred Until:

Other:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-60

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO THE 2021 REBUILDING AMERICA INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT FOR THE WEKIVA TRAIL EXTENSION PROJECT (SEGMENT 1 AND SEGMENT 5); PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF PRIOR RESOLUTIONS; PROVIDING FOR COMMITMENT TO SHARE IN FEES AND EXPENSES; PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2020, the City of Mount Dora adopted Resolution No. 2020-29 to form an alliance with Lake County and the City of Tavares to advance the concept of rails to trails; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2021, the City adopted Resolution No. 2021-23, and on April 6, 2021, the City adopted Resolution No. 2021-38, wherein the City committed support for the submittal of the 2021 BUILD Grant application, to pay of a portion of the Grant application fees and to assist with the attendant costs associated with the Grant application; and

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2021, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced that the BUILD Grant funding would now be available for national infrastructure investments under the Rebuilding America Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant program for projects that have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area or a region; and

WHEREAS, the Wekiva Trail Extension Project – Segment 1 and Segment 5 (Project) is entirely located outside of the census-designated urbanized area, and is therefore considered by the US DOT as a rural project which may be awarded up to 100 percent in project costs; and

WHEREAS, Lake County has requested that the City of Mount Dora and the City of Tavares make a new commitment to share in the application fees and interest expenses associated with the line of credit that will be used to cashflow the Project costs as necessary for the RAISE Grant; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Dora has determined that it is in the best interest of its citizens to further commit funding in support of the 2021 RAISE Grant in an effort to receive the desired funding for the Wekiva Trail Extension Project – Segment 1 and Segment 5.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. The City of Mount Dora has complied with all requirements and procedures of Florida law in processing this Resolution. The above recitals are hereby adopted.

SECTION 2. Repeal of Prior Resolutions.

- A. City of Mount Dora Resolution No. 2021-23 is hereby repealed in its entirety.
- B. City of Mount Dora Resolution No. 2021-38 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

SECTION 3. Commitment to Share Fees and Expenses.

A. The City of Mount Dora hereby supports the submittal of a 2021 RAISE Grant application, by Lake County, in an effort to receive funding for the Wekiva Trail Extension Project (Segment 1 and Segment 5).

B. The City of Mount Dora hereby agrees to share in the cost of submitting the grant application in an amount not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$15,600.00).

C. The City of Mount Dora hereby commits to share in the interest costs associated with the line of credit used by Lake County to cashflow the Wekiva Trail Extension Project (Segment 1 and Segment 5) costs for the RAISE Grant in an amount not to exceed Forty-Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)

D. In the event, Lake County is awarded a 2021 RAISE Grant for the Wekiva Trail Extension Project (Segment 1 and Segment 5), the City of Mount Dora hereby commits to working with Lake County and the City of Tavares in budgeting future funds to share in the cost of operation and maintenance of such trail improvements located within the boundaries of the City of Mount Dora, Florida.

SECTION 3. Implementing Administrative Actions. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to take such action as may be deemed necessary and appropriate in order to implement the provisions of this Resolution. The City Manager may, as deemed appropriate, necessary and convenient, delegate the powers of implementation as herein set forth to such City employees as deemed effectual and prudent.

SECTION 4. Savings Clause. All prior actions of the City of Mount Dora pertaining to the RAISE Grant for the Wekiva Trail Extension Project (Segment 1 and Segment 5), as well as any and all matters relating thereto, are hereby ratified and affirmed consistent with the provisions of this Resolution.

SECTION 5. Scrivener's Errors. Typographical errors and other matters of a similar nature that do not affect the intent of this Resolution, as determined by the City Clerk and City Attorney, may be corrected.

SECTION 6. Conflicts. All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict with any of the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed.

SECTION 7. Severability. If any Section or portion of a Section of this Resolution proves to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, it shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force, or effect of any other Section or part of this Resolution.

SECTION 8. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 1 day of June, 2021.



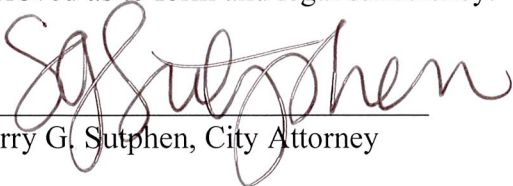
CATHERINE T. HOECHST
MAYOR of the City of Mount Dora, Florida

ATTEST:



Jessica Burnham, City Clerk

For the use and reliance of City of Mount Dora only.
Approved as to form and legal sufficiency.



Sherry G. Sutphen, City Attorney