



## **REQUEST FOR ACTION**

### **Authorization of Fiscal Year 2022 RAISE Grant Agreement for the 6th Street Bridge, Neighborhood Safety, & Riverfront Improvements Project J7919**

**MEETING DATE:**

July 20, 2026

**ORIGINATING DEPT:**

City Administration

**AGENDA SECTION:**

Consent Agenda

**PRESENTER:**

Steve Sampson Brown

### **Action Requested:**

Adopting a Resolution authorizing the execution of the Fiscal Year 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Agreement with the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to provide \$19,900,000 in federal funding for the construction of the 6th Street Bridge, Neighborhood Safety, & Riverfront Improvements Project, J7919.

### **Report Narrative:**

The vision for a 6th Street bridge over the Zumbro River dates back to 1973, when the City adopted an official map proposing an extension of 6th Street SE from South Broadway to 3rd Avenue SE. Since 2010, several plans have renewed momentum for the bridge's development, most notably the 2021 Downtown Waterfront Southeast (DWSE) Master Plan. This plan, shaped by significant community input and broad neighborhood representation on the planning committee, reaffirmed the need for street and infrastructure improvements. These include enhancements to local streets, the construction of a bridge over the Zumbro River, and investments in riverfront connectivity to support quality of life, recreation, and economic growth.

Drawing on extensive community engagement, the plan identified the following key themes:

- Provide safer multimodal east-west connection to the Zumbro River and downtown.
- Improve options and response times for first responders.
- Allow access to parcels that can be redeveloped in the near-term.
- Align with city policy of a connected street network and previous planning work.
- Improve mobility options, including the services of Rochester Public Transit

The City of Rochester has been awarded a Fiscal Year 2022 RAISE Grant to support the construction of this transformational project. While the City of Rochester is the applicant and Designated Subrecipient, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is acting as the Recipient and pass-through entity for the USDOT. The grant agreement will obligate \$19,900,000 in federal funds dedicated to construction activities.

The project scope includes the construction of an approximately 151-linear-foot, multi-span bridge, associated street approaches, streetscape and traffic calming enhancements, and trail connections to the Zumbro South Trail. During preliminary engineering and community engagement, the scope was

optimized from the original application. A proposed lower west trail along the Zumbro River was removed due challenges with obtaining environmental permitting and the 6th St SE/1st Ave SE intersection improvements were moved into the LinkBRT Project. Additions the project scope included safety improvements via a 8th Ave SE mini-roundabout, a modified school drop-off zone, a multi-modal shared-use path along 6th St SE, and a traffic signal replacement at 1st Ave SW/6th St SW were incorporated. The scope of the project has not change since a project update was presented to the City Council on May 5, 2025. In April of 2026 100% final project plans were submitted to MnDOT for final approval. The current schedule for this project is to initiation of bidding on the project in late fall of this year.

The current project estimate for the project is as follows:

|                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Base Bid -                        | \$23,500,000        |
| Landscaping Bid Alterate -        | \$332,000           |
| Bridge Canopy Bid Alternate -     | \$877,000           |
| Railroad Crossing -               | \$1,000,000         |
| <b>Total Construction Costs -</b> | <b>\$25,709,000</b> |
| Right of Way -                    | \$2,200,000         |
| Design Engineering -              | \$4,193,449         |
| Construction Management -         | \$1,819,561         |
| Admin & Legal Costs -             | \$257,090           |
| Construction Contingency -        | \$2,570,900         |
| Permits -                         | \$50,000            |
| <b>Total Soft Costs -</b>         | <b>\$11,328,159</b> |
| <b>TOTAL COST -</b>               | <b>\$36,800,000</b> |

This grant will be processed as a "pass-through" agreement and will be administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). This is similar to previous infrastructure projects where the City is the final grant recipient, but the project involves coordination with State entities. City staff have been working closely with MnDOT on the grant agreement details and the project's timing. This grant agreement must be signed by September 30, 2026 or the city will lose the RAISE grant award. The grant agreement is still currently under final review by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). MnDOT requested that the City Council proceed to authorize the expedited signature of the grant agreement, based on the attached draft agreement format since no substantive edits by FHWA are anticipated. The request was made by MnDOT in order to ensure the grant agreement gets executed before September 30th to ensure the RAISE grant funds are locked in and committed to the City of Rochester. If FHWA makes any type of substantive changes during their final review, city staff will return with the agreement to the City Council for final approval of the revised document and request execution of that version.

### **Priorities & Foundational Principles:**

Transformational Capital Projects  
Quality Services

### **Policy Considerations & DEI Impact:**

The 6th Street Bridge project aims to enhance quality of life by improving accessibility for disadvantaged residents. By incorporating Complete Street elements along the 6th Street corridor, the new bridge will offer safe mobility options for motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users. It will also include ADA compliant features to ensure better access for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The Downtown Waterfront subdistrict is home to a significant minority population, including 42.9% in Census Tract 1, 28.0% in Census Tract 2, and 19.2% in Census Tract 3. Within these areas, there are notable concentrations of Black (9.1%, 13.6%, and 9.5%), Asian (7.9%, 0.7%, and 3.2%), and Hispanic (20.6%, 3.6%, and 4.0%) residents. This project represents an important investment in the revitalization of this area, improving residents' access to essential services and opportunities.

## **Prior Legislative Actions & Community Engagement:**

February 26, 2020: Council Meeting - New Rapid Transit for a Growing, Equitable Rochester Study Received and Filed.

October 19, 2020: Council Meeting - Resolution No. 283-20 - Five-Year Update to the Destination Medical Center (DMC) Development Plan Adopted.

April 19, 2021: Council Meeting - Resolution No. 084-21 incorporating the DWSE Small Area Plan into the Planning 2 Succeed (P2S) Comp Plan Adopted.

July 19, 2021: Council Meeting - Contract with Perkins & Will for Conceptual Design and Engineering Services Authorized.

March 2022: Council Meeting - Additional Design, Evaluation, Public Engagement and Analysis; and Funding Strategies for the 6th St Bridge Authorized.

August 21, 2023: Council Meeting - Contract with Bolton and Menk for Design and Engineering of the 6th Street Bridge Project Authorized

May 5, 2025: Council Meeting - Presentation Update as Bridge Design is Submitted

November 17, 2025: Council Meeting - Resolution for Variance with MNDOT Approved

December 18, 2025: MNDOT Variance Committee Variance Approved

February 6, 2026: City Council Meeting - Contract Amendment with Bolton and Menk for Design and Engineering of the 6th Street Bridge Project is Authorized

Community Engagement (All numbers are approximate):

Open House #1: 3/26/24 at Riverside Building Lobby (60 people)

Slatterly Park Neighborhood meeting: 4/23/24

Riverside Family Event: 5/16/24

Open House #2: 6/26/24 at Riverside Elementary (50 people)

Forward Concert 7/11/24

Back to School event 8/17/24

Latino Fest 9/14/24 (150 people)

Historic Neighborhood Meeting: 5/8/25 (25 people)

Public Engagement for updates: Riverside 5/28/25 (25 people)

July 22, 2025: Slatterly Neighborhood Meeting: Slatterly Park (25 people)

September 17, 2025: 6th Street Sessions: The Bridge

October 1, 2025: 6th Street Sessions: Streetscape

October 22, 2025: 6th Street Sessions: Riverfront Amenities

Reaching out to under-represented communities. Bolton and Menk created a discussion guide, and worked with individuals from partnering organizations.

10/9/24: Ethiopian Community of Rochester MN ECRM board members and founders - 5 people

9/30/24: Alliance of Chicanos, Hispanics, and Latin Americans 10 people

9/21/24: Pamoja Woman (Somali and Sudanese community) 21 females and 10 males

## **Fiscal & Resource Impact:**

The total project budget is currently estimated at \$36,800,000. This includes \$7,000,000 in previously incurred costs (such as design, engineering, and right-of-way acquisition covered by local matching funds) and \$29,900,000 in future eligible project costs.

The execution of this agreement officially obligates the \$19,900,000 Federal RAISE Grant, which will be utilized exclusively for construction. The remaining \$10,000,000 for future eligible construction costs will be funded via non-federal local match sources, including State Destination Medical Center funds (\$11,000,000 total) and Minnesota Department of Transportation matching funds (\$5,900,000 total).

## **Alternative Action(s):**

No alternative actions are recommended at this time.

**Prepared By:**

Mike Collins

**Attachments:**

[Resolution - RAISE Grant Agreement - 6th Street Bridge](#)

[RAISE Grant Agreement Exhibit.pdf](#)