

## STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #: 23-25  
COUNCIL MTG OF: March 7, 2023  
FROM: Dave Caron, Town Administrator  
OFFERED BY: Planning Department  
PREPARED BY: George Sioras, Planning Director  
SUBJECT: US Department of Transportation's Thriving Communities Program

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### INTRODUCTION:

The National League of Cities (NLC) is promoting a program through the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) called Thriving Communities Program which would provide technical assistance with transportation help to local communities. Back on December 6, 2022, the Town sent a Letter of Interest to the USDOT expressing our interest in the program with the hope of being selected to receive technical assistance and support in anticipation of the potential changes to traffic patterns in the Downtown as the Exit 4A project moves forward. Both the Planning and Economic Development staff worked on and submitted the Letter of Interest and application to the USDOT and are waiting for their decision.

### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Staff initiatives in this area is in response to the Council's goal to study and possibly realign downtown traffic patterns once the Exit 4A Corridor is completed.

### BACKGROUND

As expressed by the Town Administrator as well as one of the Town Council Goals, the town is seeking to secure technical assistance and/or a consultant to review opportunities for revised traffic patterns in the Downtown. In our Letter of Interest to the USDOT staff extolled the improvements in the Downtown and potential significant commuter traffic shift away from the Downtown upon the completion of the Exit 4A project, which will lead to further economic opportunities. Both the New Hampshire Municipal Association and the National League of Cities promoted the program and forwarded to New Hampshire local communities.

### DISCUSSION

In summary:

1. Thriving Communities will select 30+ communities who submit a Letter of Interest to receive technical assistance and support from local and national entities that can expedite their transportation visions into reality.

2. Access to qualified staff and support as part of the Thriving Communities Program.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for the program would be available through both the State and Federal Governments. This program would be an excellent opportunity to receive technical assistance to address and review our current road infrastructure in the Downtown.

Should the Town not be selected to participate in this program, staff can return to the Council seeking funds from the DCC TIF Development Fund to retain consultants to assist with this initiative.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL

Staff recommends that the Town Council approve the attached Resolution to support our participation in the USDOT Thriving Communities Program.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

I MOVE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL <adopt Resolution #2023-017> as follows ... *[Read the Resolution]*



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# RESOLUTION

## Number 2023-017

To Support Participation in the US Department of Transportation's  
Thriving Communities Program

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WHEREAS, the Section 9.15 of the Town Charter authorizes the Town Council to apply for, accept and expend funds received from the State and Federal Governments; and

WHEREAS, a Town Council goal for FY23 is to maximize opportunities with the Exit 4A Project, including the potential to study and revise Downtown traffic patterns; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation has developed the Thriving Communities Program to facilitate the planning and development of transportation and community revitalization activities in under-resourced communities; and

WHEREAS, the Broadway corridor bisects two census districts, of which one has been designated as economically disadvantaged and eligible for funding and preferential federal tax treatment under this and other federal programs; and

WHEREAS, the subject area is within the Derry Commerce Corridor Tax Increment Financing District, and its Development Program encourages infrastructure improvements and other activities to improve the quality of transportation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED IN COUNCIL that the Town Council supports the application to the USDOT Thriving Communities Program to study options to maximize economic opportunities through more efficient transportation routes in the Downtown, in preparation for the completion of the Exit 4A corridor.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Adopted: March 7, 2023

Attest:

x \_\_\_\_\_

Joshua Bourdon, Council Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

x \_\_\_\_\_

Cristina Guilford, Town Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_