

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTIVE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD EQUITY IN RUTHERFORDTON AND SPINDALE (PARTNERS), AND TO PROVIDE LOCAL FUNDING TO MATCH A USDOT RAISE GRANT OPPORTUNITY.**

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has a long tradition of progressing successful multimodal transportation projects and supporting the development of the complete streets model for roadway construction and infrastructure improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Partnership for Active Regional Transportation and Neighborhood Equity in Rutherfordton and Spindale (PARTNERS) is the result of a collaborative partnership between the Towns of Rutherfordton, Spindale, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), in conjunction with other regional partners to convert the Charlotte Road/Main Street corridor into a complete street design that safely and equitably serves residents using all modes of transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, the corridor is the primary connection between the two towns and is a critical route to essential community resources such as the Rutherford Hospital, Blue Ridge Health Clinic, and Spindale Elementary School, while providing greater connectivity for two Historically Disadvantaged Communities.

**WHEREAS**, the developed PARTNERS Project will create a vibrant and inclusive transportation corridor that connects people to places, is fully integrated with the existing and planned investments while spurring further investment and economic development, as well as fostering community cohesion and a sense of local pride; and

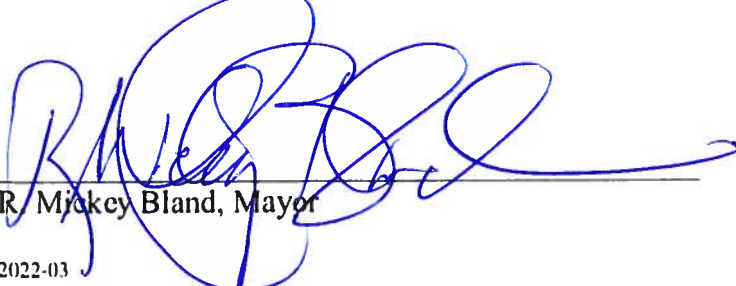
**WHEREAS**, the project is a critical step forward to enhancing the vitality, vibrancy, and economic competitiveness of both rural downtowns and public spaces.

**WHEREAS**, NCDOT and the Towns of Rutherfordton and Spindale are pursuing a federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant opportunity to design and construct the proposed transportation enhancement project to connect multiple modes of transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, historically disadvantaged communities participating in the RAISE grant application are not required to provide a local match, however, due to the critical nature of the project, the Towns of Rutherfordton and Spindale are prepared to commit funding towards a local match for this project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Spindale Board of Commissioners supports providing \$250,000 in matching funding for the RAISE Grant. This funding is an investment by the communities to create an attractive, multimodal corridor that will provide continued revitalization and private sector investment by increasing transportation options, and connections between two rural communities looking for transformative change.

This the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2022.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
R. Mickey Bland, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Swafford, Town Clerk