Western Piedmont Council of Governments

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TO: Mayor Joseph L. Gibbons
Lenoir City Council
City Manager Scott Hildebran

FROM: Kyle Case, Community & Economic Development Manager, WPCOG
SUBJECT: Public Hearing for a Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Application
DATE: October 06, 2026

In order to submit a North Carolina Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce Division of Community Revitalization (DCR), two public hearings are required to notify the citizens of available funding opportunities and allow them to ask questions and make public comments regarding the submission of any application. The city held the first public hearing on February 17, 2026 and this, the second public hearing has been publicly advertised for tonight's meeting.

**Background:** The City of Lenoir is seeking CDBG-DR funding for the replacement of the Arrowood Street SE Bridge. Constructed in 1960, the Arrowood Street SE Bridge is Caldwell County's highest-priority bridge replacement need and one of only two bridges in the County rated "Poor" by the National Bridge Inventory (NBI), as reported through NCDOT. The City's 2024 Preliminary Engineering Report determined that replacement, rather than repair, is the only appropriate long-term solution. Bridge inspections document significant timber decay, corrosion, loss of bearing area, erosion, and scour-related concerns. Following direct damage from Hurricane Helene, a July 2026 sealed load-rating analysis found deterioration of the timber bent cap system had reduced structural capacity, resulting in a reduction of the recommended load posting from 40 tons to 4 tons, a 90% reduction in load-carrying capacity. This reduction raises serious operational concerns, as typical school buses exceed the revised load rating, forcing school buses accessing Hibriten High School and William Lenoir Middle School as well as other larger vehicles to use a substandard secondary access route that is not designed or constructed to accommodate school bus traffic. This compromised access threatens reliable and safe access for students, faculty, emergency responders, and nearby residents.

**Proposed Application:** This $1,357,964.54 CDBG-DR application proposes the replacement of the Arrowood Street SE Bridge.

**Requested Action:** After the public hearing is closed and the City Council is in session, if the Council is so inclined, a motion will be needed for the following actions:

- Approval of the Authorizing Resolution

**Sample Language:**

*I move to approve the Authorizing Resolution to submit a $1,357,964.54 grant application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce Division of Community Revitalization (DCR).*

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