City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: April 28, 2026

Staff Resources: Amy Deyton, Public Works Director
Jaime Matthews, Deputy Recovery Coordinator

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution to authorize the City Manager to submit an application to the Federal Highway Administration - Emergency Relief Program (FHWA-ER) for funding of repairs on Federal-aid routes in the City of Asheville; to accept said grant funds if awarded; enter into any documents necessary for such acceptance from the FHWA-ER; and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the N.C. Dept. of Transportation.

Background:

- In September 2024, the City of Asheville was severely impacted by Tropical Storm Helene, producing unprecedented impacts on the City's infrastructure, including roadways and sidewalks.
- The FHWA-ER program provides federal funding to repair Federal-aid highways and Federal lands roads damaged by natural disasters.
- FHWA-ER funding will provide permanent restoration of damaged slopes, roadways, sidewalk infrastructure as identified as Federal-aid highways.
- The City is responsible for restoring and maintaining this infrastructure.

Vendor Outreach:

- N/A

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- A Clean, Safe and Healthy Environment
- Transportation and Accessibility

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- Infrastructure and Environment

Committee(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- FHWA will reimburse 80% of eligible costs with 20% of the cost share to be covered by the City.
- Estimated FHWA Grant request is $3,705,035

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution to authorize the City Manager to submit an application to the Federal Highway Administration - Emergency Relief Program (FHWA-ER) for funding of repairs on Federal-aid routes in the City of Asheville; to accept said grant funds if awarded; enter into any documents necessary for such acceptance from the FHWA-ER; and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the N.C. Dept. of Transportation.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution to authorize the City Manager to submit an application to the Federal Highway Administration - Emergency Relief Program (FHWA-ER) for funding of repairs on federal-aid routes in the City of Asheville; to accept said grant funds if awarded; enter into any documents necessary for such acceptance from the FHWA-ER; and enter into a memorandum of agreement with the N.C. Department of Transportation

Whereas, the City has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160a-17.1 to apply for and receive grants from the State and federal governments and to enter into contracts for the administration of said grants; and

Whereas. the City of Asheville experienced severe impacts from Tropical Storm Helene in September 2024, resulting in significant damage to public infrastructure, including roadways, sidewalks, and related facilities; and

Whereas, the Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief Program (FHWA-ER) provides federal funding for the repair and restoration of Federal-aid highways and associated infrastructure damaged by natural disasters; and

Whereas, the City seeks to apply for FHWA-ER funding to support the permanent restoration of damaged slopes, roadways, and sidewalk infrastructure on eligible Federal-aid routes within the City; and

Whereas, FHWA will reimburse 80% of eligible costs with 20% of the cost share to be covered by the City; and

Whereas, this effort aligns with the City Council's Vision 2036 focus areas of A Clean, Safe and Healthy Environment and Transportation and Accessibility, as well as Council Priority Recovery Areas of Infrastructure and Environment;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that:

City Council authorizes the city manager to submit an application to the Federal Highway Administration - Emergency Relief Program (FHWA-ER) for funding of repairs on federal-aid routes in the City of Asheville; to accept said grant funds if awarded; enter into any documents necessary for such acceptance from the FHWA-ER; and enter into a memorandum of agreement with the N.C. Department of Transportation.

Read, approved and adopted this 28th day of April, 2026.

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk