



REPORT TO: CITY COUNCIL

MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 3, 2022

Agenda Item:	9a. CC-22-175
Background / Issue:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Busy highway roads are dangerous barriers to walking and biking, and can divide communities. • The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) discretionary grant program through the US Department of Transportation and funded it with \$1 billion over the next 5 years as the first-ever Federal program dedicated to reconnecting communities that were previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure. • State Highway 51 (HW51), also known as 6th Avenue, divides Stillwater by north and south, essentially dividing the downtown and cultural district on the south side from the Oklahoma State University campus and the commercial districts that surround the university on the north side. • The fact that it must be crossed by pedestrians and cyclists who want to travel back and forth between the two, makes it a significant barrier due to its traffic congestion. • This will only get worse in 2025, when ODOT is scheduled to begin widening HW51 to 5 lanes.
Proposal/Solution:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff proposes a Planning Grant Application for a potential project with two major components to help eliminate barriers to active transportation in Stillwater. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Planning to develop Active Transportation Crossings of HW51 (6th Avenue); ✓ Planning to develop a community-wide Active Transportation Map for Connectivity to guide future growth in Stillwater. • This planning project will be inclusive for all residents and visitors in Stillwater and will help develop safe transportation for pedestrians and cyclists to connect neighborhoods of all ages, genders, races, and income levels. • It will also enhance the city by discovering the most ideal and safest crossings along a two mile section of HW51/6th

	<p>Avenue for pedestrians and bicyclists while reconnecting the north and south sides of Stillwater; thus enabling this vibrant college town to develop a safe pedestrian future through a strategic plan for active transportation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution CC-2022-27 acknowledging City Council authorization and approval for the submission of an application for FY 2023 is on the agenda for adoption.
Financial Impact/Funding Source(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amount requested with the Planning Grant is \$250,000, consisting of \$200,000 for the Federal share and a 20% match of \$50,000. Matching funds have been identified in the contingency fund.
Related Strategic Priority:	<p>#4 Connected Spaces: To develop a strong sense of place that recognizes the interconnectedness of people, buildings and public systems (such as transportation, utilities and parks) that best serve the needs of the public).</p>
Recommended Action/Motion:	<p>Motion to adopt Resolution CC-2022-27 authorizing staff to develop and submit a Planning Grant application in the amount of \$250,000 to the US Department of Transportation for the Reconnecting Communities program.</p>
Prepared By:	<p>Shelly Crynes, Grants Manager</p>
Reviewed By:	<p>Brady Moore, Chief Performance Innovation Officer Patti Osmus, Assistant to City Manager</p>
Submitted By:	<p>Norman McNickle, City Manager</p>