

From: Burkham, Cody
Sent: Thu, 8 May 2025 17:16:59 +0000
To: Schmoll, Joseph (OST)
Cc: Matesic, Hannah (OST); Fritz, Trish (OST); Guendert, Zan (FHWA)
Subject: Re: City of Russellville Arkansas RAISE/BUILD Grant

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Thank you, Joseph. I'll get with the City and see if there is anything else they need.

Best,
Cody

Cody Burkham
District Director
Congressman Bruce Westerman (AR-04)

Sent from mobile device, please excuse brevity and errors.

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From: Schmoll, Joseph (OST) <joseph.schmoll@dot.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 1:03:02 PM
To: Burkham, Cody <Cody.Burkham@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Matesic, Hannah (OST) <hannah.matesic@dot.gov>; Fritz, Trish (OST) <trish.fritz@dot.gov>; Guendert, Zan (FHWA) <zan.guendert@dot.gov>
Subject: RE: City of Russellville Arkansas RAISE/BUILD Grant

Hey Cody,

Thank you again for reaching out. Our FHWA Arkansas Division office has worked in coordination with the City on this project, including work on a draft grant agreement amendment for review, including for consistency with all executive orders and direction issued by the Trump-Vance Administration as consistent with law. Our Division Office stands ready to assist the City on any changes that may warrant further revisions to the draft amendment. As a next step, we encourage the City to be in touch with our Division office to discuss the updated cost estimates and outlined proposals. The Arkansas Division Competitive Grants point of contact is Valera.McDaniel@dot.gov. We are happy to stay coordinated with the Division and provide updates on the grant as they are available to your office.

Best regards,

Joseph Schmoll
U.S. DOT / Office of the Secretary

(b)(6) (cell)

From: Schmoll, Joseph (OST)
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 4:36 PM
To: Burkham, Cody <Cody.Burkham@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Bolin, Miles <Miles.Bolin@mail.house.gov>; Matesic, Hannah (OST) <hannah.matesic@dot.gov>; Fritz, Trish (OST) <trish.fritz@dot.gov>
Subject: RE: City of Russellville Arkansas RAISE/BUILD Grant

Hey Cody, apologies for my delay. I'm working on getting specifics on this project and will follow up ASAP.

Best regards,

Joseph Schmoll
U.S. DOT / Office of the Secretary
(b)(6) (cell)

From: Burkham, Cody <Cody.Burkham@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 11:46 AM
To: Schmoll, Joseph (OST) <joseph.schmoll@dot.gov>
Cc: Bolin, Miles <Miles.Bolin@mail.house.gov>
Subject: City of Russellville Arkansas RAISE/BUILD Grant

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning, Joseph,

I hope that this email finds you well.

Chairman Westerman had several leaders from the City of Russellville (the city) reach out regarding the RAISE grant that they were awarded in 2023.

As an overview the city was awarded \$23.7 million by the U.S. DOT to designate and construct approximately 13 miles of multi-use trails and side paths. Which will connect residents with key destinations across the city. Originally cost estimates based on real construction cost was for \$23.7 million. Due to inflation cost estimates are now \$40.9 million or an increase of \$17.2 million. This additional \$17.2 million is beyond the city's financial capacity to cover before the grant deadline of 2027.

The city has several solutions that they proposed to address this shortfall, none of which require more federal money. These proposals are listed below.

- Reduction is the scope of work from the original grant.
- Allowing for a simplified appraisal. According to the city, appraisal cost has increased significantly due to federal requirements from \$750 to \$5,000.
- Phase the project, completing the original alignment as future funding becomes available to the city.

The Chairman would like to explore the possibility of the DOT accepting one or more of these proposed solutions so that the city, its residence, and the Chairman's constituents can still receive the grant they were awarded. Would you be able to assist us with this issue?

Best Regards,

Cody Burkham

District Director

Congressman Bruce Westerman

Office: (b)(6)

Mobile: (b)(6)