



**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH**  
*Office of the Mayor*

**Shannon E. Glover**  
Mayor

April 8, 2022

Mr. James E. Wright, P.E.  
Director of Engineering and Technical Services  
City of Portsmouth  
801 Crawford Street  
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704 -3822

**SUBJECT: Complete High Street Innovation Corridor  
2022 RAISE Grant Program**

Dear Mr. Wright:

As Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for funding through the RAISE Program for the Complete High Street Innovation Corridor project. This project will provide a multi-modal, complete streets roadway improvement project along High Street from the Martin Luther King Expressway to Chestnut Street. This project serves as a key component in our efforts to revitalize this important corridor between Midtown and Downtown, as demonstrated by its inclusion in the Hampton Roads Planning Organization (HRTO) 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

The 1.3-mile project will connect Olde Towne Portsmouth with the city's newly designated innovation district, a mixed-use redevelopment area west of Downtown Portsmouth. Improvements to High Street include scenic streetscaping, utility relocations, raised medians, high visibility crosswalks, sidewalks, shared use path and a full roadway diet that will allow for on-street bicycle accommodations.

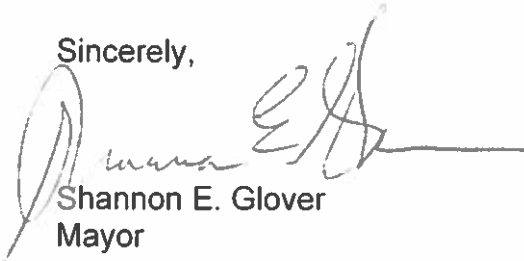
This corridor serves an urban, economically distressed community and provides access to schools, social services, health centers and employment opportunities. High Street is served by regular bus, ferry and para-transit service, and is part of a planned backbone regional transit network. The corridor is also a critical part the South Hampton Roads Trail, a 26-mile regional bicycle trail currently under development.

The Complete High Street Innovation Corridor project bolsters mobility and community connectivity in an area defined by the program as an Area of Persistent Poverty. It also meets the statutory criteria of the RAISE Grant by specifically addressing:

- **Safety:** The project reduces travel lanes, installs medians and provides on and off-road bicycle and pedestrian facilities that will improve safety for both vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians in the corridor.
- **Quality of Life and Economic Competitiveness:** The project facilitates redevelopment of an underutilized area west of Downtown Portsmouth by enhancing infrastructure to vacant and underutilized parcels rezoned for higher density, mixed-use development and owned by the Portsmouth Economic Development Authority.
- **State of Good Repair:** The project rehabilitates the corridor by replacing aging water, sanitary sewer and storm drainpipes in addition to upgrading sidewalks and ADA ramps, and renewing pavement.
- **Innovation:** The project serves the Portsmouth Innovation District, a planned redevelopment area that will be transformed into a mixed-use technology center facilitated by a regional fiber optic ring that runs through the district and the emerging wind energy industry coming to the region.
- **Partnership and Collaboration:** Several stakeholders in the region including the U.S. Navy and the Port of Virginia will benefit from the project as it improves area readiness and opens new economic opportunities for port-related services. The project is identified in the Hampton Roads Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (2045-738).

The goal of the Complete High Street Innovation Corridor is to enhance mobility, improve safety and promote economic development within the corridor. This project aligns with the Vision of City Council, and I am, once again, pleased to offer this letter of support.

Sincerely,



Shannon E. Glover  
Mayor