



PRESS RELEASE

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Date: July 14, 2023

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Wabash River Greenway receives \$25 million RAISE Grant Award

Award generates funds needed to complete Phase 2 of the Wabash River Greenway Development Project

Lafayette, Indiana. The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded Tippecanoe County a \$25 million U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) **2023 RAISE Grant for the Wabash River Greenway Project (WRG)**. The award will fund completion of **Phase Two of the Wabash River Greenway Project**, which will develop the N 9th Street – North River Road Section of the WRG, including a new Bike/Pedestrian Bridge across the Wabash River.

“WREC and our community partners are excited to learn of our project’s award! This is the largest of several recent successes that have marked the beginning of the active development phase of the Wabash River Greenway. An award of this magnitude from the USDOT reinforces the need for, and importance of, active transportation infrastructure and its accompanying health, economic, and recreational benefits to our community locally, within our region, and the State, said Stanton Lambert, Executive Director of the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation.

WREC partnered with Tippecanoe County, the City of Lafayette, City of West Lafayette, and the Tippecanoe County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to apply for the grant, with the MPO serving as the formal applicant.

The grant program allows for completion of the project by 2032. with a five-year estimated timeline for completion. An additional \$1.4 million is needed to complete the project and will be secured from existing local funding sources.

The grant project will:

- Complete safety and ADA improvements on the existing North 9th Street Trail in Lafayette, including new park n’ ride spaces and bus stop connections.
- Extend a new connector trail from the south end of N 9th Street Trail west to the new Wabash River Bike/Pedestrian Bridge.
- Construct a new Wabash River Bike/Pedestrian Bridge.
- Construct new side path including sections of Boardwalk along the east side of North River Road from Mascoutin Park in West Lafayette to Tecumseh Trails County Park.
- Construct a new Trail Bridge connecting Tecumseh Trails County Park to Tippecanoe County Amphitheater Park and a new trail from the bridge to the Amphitheater Park parking lot.

Phase One of the Project consists of six WRG pilot projects submitted as a part of the Greater Lafayette Commerce, READI (State of Indiana -Regional Economic, Acceleration, and Development Initiative) Grant Project; two State of IN Next Level Trails grant projects (WREC/City of Lafayette Sagamore Parkway Connector Trail and Friends of Panhandle Trail Extension to the WRG), and the City of West Lafayette/MPO Sagamore Parkway Connector Trail Project. These projects are funded and underway.

The Wabash River Greenway extends through a five county, 90 river mile section of the Wabash River corridor in Fountain, Warren, Tippecanoe, Carroll, and Cass counties with resource amenity corridors planned utilizing tributaries, existing/new trails, and, or road/utility ROW corridors to extend out from the Greenway to connect five adjacent counties of Pulaski, White, Benton, Montgomery, and Clinton counties to the WRG.

The Wabash River Greenway/Corridor Enhancement Project began in 2004, growing out of the Greater Lafayette Vision 2020 comprehensive visioning initiative which identified enhancement of the Wabash River corridor as the top multi-jurisdictional community development priority facing Greater Lafayette. Three local governments - the City of Lafayette, City of West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County, and Purdue University formed the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation - a 501c3 nonprofit agency, to serve as the point agency for planning and implementing enhancement of the Wabash River corridor in Tippecanoe County, with a long-range mission to work on corridor enhancement in a four-county region including Fountain, Warren, and Carroll counties. Cass County was added to the long-range mission during the development of the five county Wabash River Greenway Master Plan in 2022. The regional plan was funded by North Central Health Services and the Wabash Heartland Innovation Network (WHIN), a Lilly Foundation funded regional economic development initiative. WREC has completed comprehensive planning, strategic land acquisition, environmental assessment, and remediation projects on corridor properties as needed, and initiated an ongoing effort to improve Wabash River water quality through its multi-county Region of the Great Bend Watershed Management Program as part of its efforts to enhance the Wabash River corridor and develop the Wabash River Greenway. WREC's first riverfront development project was completed in 2020 when the Riverside Promenade, an elevated walkway in downtown Lafayette opened.

The USDOT's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or RAISE Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the USDOT to invest in road, rail, transit, active transportation infrastructure, and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Previously known as the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants, Congress has dedicated nearly \$14.3 billion for fifteen rounds of National Infrastructure Investments to fund projects that have a significant local or regional impact. In each competition, DOT receives hundreds of applications to build and repair critical pieces of our freight and passenger transportation networks. The RAISE program enables USDOT to examine these projects on their merits to help ensure that taxpayers are getting the highest value for every dollar invested. Overall, during the 15-year span of the highly competitive program, the US Department of Transportation has received more than 12,466 applications requesting more than \$213 billion for transportation projects across the country.