



Regional Transit Authority
2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119-6301

504.827.8300

www.norta.com

RESOLUTION NO. _____

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF ORLEANS

**AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOW STAFF TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION FOR
FEDERAL FUNDS TO PLAN AND DESIGN SAFE, RELIABLE AND FAST TRANSIT
CORRIDORS**

Introduced by Commissioner _____,
seconded by Commissioner _____.

WHEREAS, identified RTA’s 2017 Strategic Mobility Plan, “Access to Destinations” and “Reliability” are the most” important values for all rider types. In addition, fast and frequent service is the most important strategy desired by all riders; and

WHEREAS, the start of that work was New Links, adopted in March 2021 by RTA Board of Commissioners with implementation of the bus network redesign underway; and

WHEREAS, while New Links recommendations will go a long way to improve connectivity and access, the project specifically designed those recommendations assuming no change in existing transit the conditions and stopped short of improvements to roadways, boarding’s, turning conflicts and other physical elements affecting safety, capacity, spend and reliability; and

WHEREAS, that work is a part of a series of actions in the; SMP (BR9-12) and is the primer for development of High Capacity Corridors (action item CO1) that are frequent and fast. Increasing reliability and speed has also been shown in many case studies to improve the on-time performance and ridership; and



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WHEREAS, the RTA staff is requesting \$2.4 million in federal funding for planning and design of a program of improvements for transit corridors with the goal of improving safety, reliability, capacity, and speed of the system in high-value/high-need corridors; and

WHEREAS, the proposal for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant program will provide funding to allow the agency to conduct a detailed study of the extensive existing data available to understand patterns of consistent hazard and unreliability and develop and design a program of improvements to address them; and

WHEREAS, this project will take the next step to improve transit operating conditions. First, the project will develop an adapted methodology, specific to the New Orleans region, for estimating bus and streetcar safety, capacity, speed, and reliability; and

WHEREAS, next it will assess the impact of transit safety and preferential treatments (e.g. signal priority, transit-only lanes, and reduced/controlled vehicle turning) and other transit capacity improvements (e.g. stop design) on high frequency corridors identified in New Links and SMP plans and high-incident crash corridors; and

WHEREAS, the final program will be complimentary to fare technology modernization (separate project pursuing other grant opportunities) as major leaps forward in reliability and world-class service; and

WHEREAS, the RTA will work with its transportation partners the RPC, the City of New Orleans, Jefferson Parish and Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development to identify community-vetted, preferred alternatives; and



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WHEREAS, the final stage will be design of PA treatments and improvements to corridors and associated plans necessary for construction; and

WHEREAS, the RTA will be responsible for the local match if the grant is awarded, an amount not-to-exceed \$600,000. The program of improvements will be designed to substantially increase the operating speed, safety and reliability of busses and streetcars which reduces the number of vehicles required to provide the same frequency of service. The project will estimate the amount of savings in platform n hours anticipated by the improvements – savings that can then be reinvested in more service throughout the system when constructed/implemented; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) that the Chairman of the Board, or his designee, is authorized to allow staff to submit a Grant Application for Federal Funds to plan and design safe, reliable and fast transit corridors.

THE FOREGOING WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED ON THE 22nd DAY OF JUNE 2021.

**FLOZELL DANIELS
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



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