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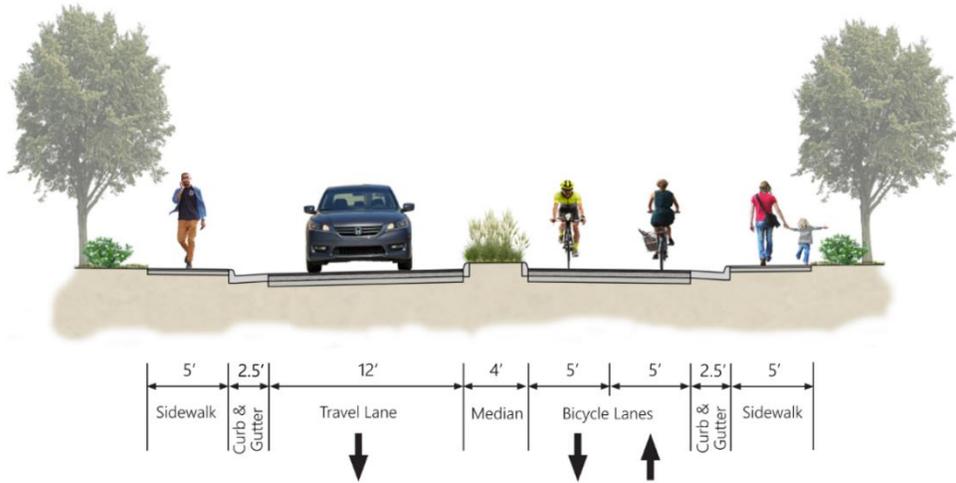
For Immediate Release – June 26, 2023

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Harrisonburg to receive \$14.3 million in federal funds for Liberty Street project

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The City of Harrisonburg will soon receive vital federal funding to allow a key infrastructure improvement project to move forward in Downtown.

The offices of U.S. Senator Tim Kaine and U.S. Senator Mark Warner announced Monday afternoon that Harrisonburg would receive approximately \$14.3 million in federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity (RAISE) grant funds to support the City’s Downtown Harrisonburg Streetscape & Mobility Transformation project. The project will create safer routes for travelers in Downtown, enhance area streetscape aesthetics and increase transportation and trail connectivity for community members and visitors.



(Above) A proposed diagram of planned improvements to Liberty Street in Downtown.

A very competitive grant opportunity, the funding supports 100 percent of the project’s current estimated cost with no matching City funds necessary at this time.

“We are grateful for the hard work and consideration of Sen. Kaine and Sen. Warner as they continue to find ways to support the people of Harrisonburg,” Mayor Deanna Reed said. “This grant will make our Downtown even safer for all visitors, no matter if they are walking, bicycling or driving. We thank them both for all that they do for the people of The Friendly City.”

The Downtown Harrisonburg Streetscape and Mobility Transformation project details include:

- The transformation of one lane (starting at Noll Drive at Kratzer Avenue, moving south down Liberty Street to Main Street) into two-way separated bicycle lanes, also known as a two-way cycle track, protected by a median separating the bike lanes from traffic. The median spaces may allow for green space use (installation of grass, gardens, etc.) in various locations supporting City environmental initiatives and programs.
- Installation of a connecting section of path from Grattan Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Way, where the Bluestone Trail begins and runs through James Madison University to Purcell Park.
- Upgrades at intersections, including replacing crosswalks and signal poles with decorative crosswalks and poles.

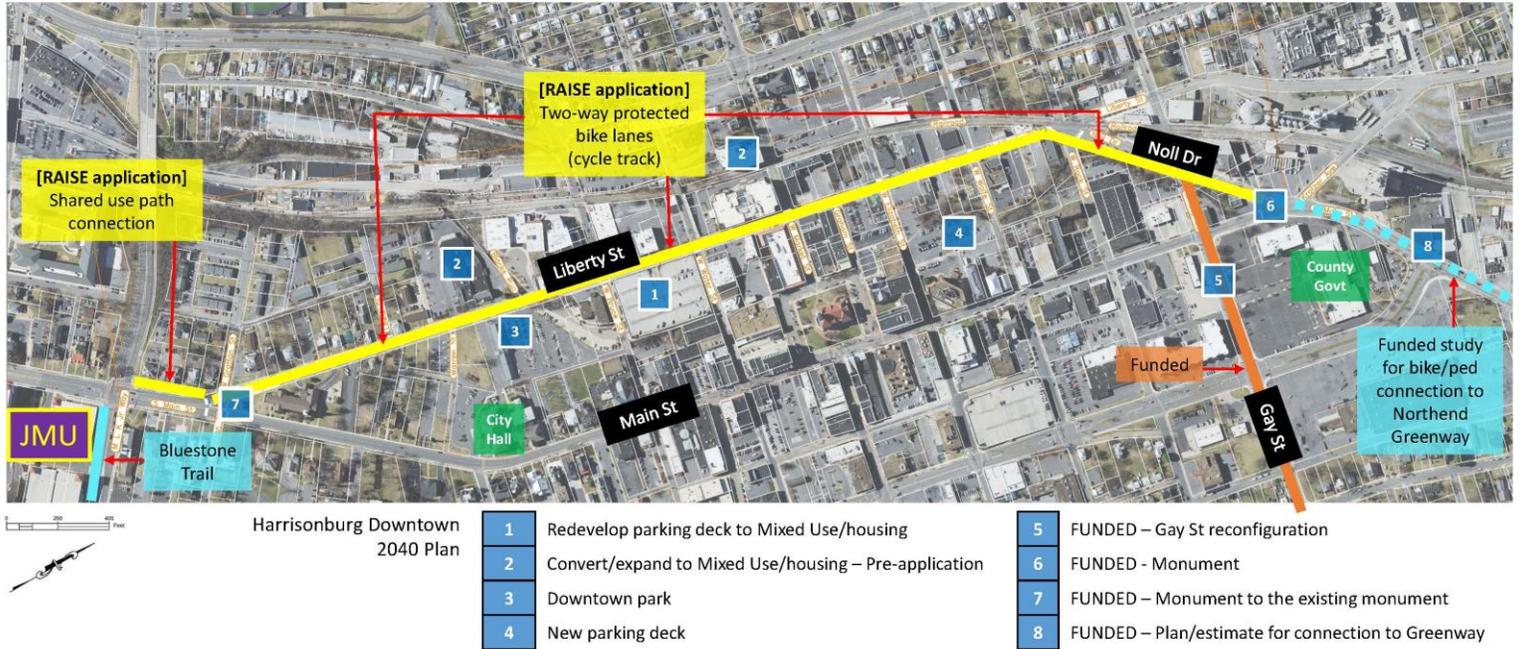
“We are always looking for ways to improve our local transportation infrastructure while making streets safer for all in our community,” Harrisonburg Director of Public Works Tom Hartman said. “Knowing that we will now be able to move forward on this project, thanks to the support from Senator Kaine and Senator Warner, will make a major difference for people looking to shop, live and work in our Downtown.”

The project was originally identified in the Harrisonburg Downtown 2040 Plan, which looked at ways to improve Harrisonburg’s Downtown for the future.

More information on this project will be available as it moves forward. Design work will begin in the coming weeks, with construction currently estimated to take place in 2027.



Downtown Harrisonburg Streetscape & Mobility Transformation



Above) A preliminary image of planned Liberty Street improvements.

The news release from Senator Kaine and Senator Warner is below:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 26, 2023

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WARNER & KAINE ANNOUNCE OVER \$38 MILLION IN FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR NORTHAMPTON, ACCOMACK, CHESTERFIELD, ROCKINGHAM, FAIRFAX COUNTIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senators Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine announced that over \$38 million in federal infrastructure investments are going to communities in Northampton, Accomack, Chesterfield, Rockingham, and Fairfax Counties through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity (RAISE) grant program, which received historic levels of support from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that the senators helped pass.

“Strong infrastructure—from roads and bridges to sidewalks and shared-use paths—is critical to helping Virginians get where they need to go and enjoy the great outdoors,” said the senators. “We’re proud to have helped pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that helped make these investments possible, and look forward to seeing the positive impacts they’ll have on Virginia communities.”

The funding will be allocated as follows:

1. \$23,251,485 is headed to Northampton and Accomack Counties to support the conversion of 16.8 miles of abandoned Bay Coast Railroad into a 10-foot-wide shared-use path that will connect the Town of Nassawadox with several historic towns on

the way to the Town of Olney. Senator Kaine visited the future trail last year to meet with local leaders and talk about \$2.5 million in federal funding both Senators previously secured for the project via the Congressionally Directed Spending process.

2. \$14,368,180 is headed to Harrisonburg to convert a lane of US-11 to a two-way separated bicycle area between the intersections of Main Street and Noll Drive and Grattan Street and Liberty Street. A shared use path will also be constructed along Main Street between Grattan Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way. The project will also include additional pedestrian, bicycle, and intersection improvements to improve safety for the community and will be transformative for the Liberty Street Corridor and Downtown.

3. \$3,600,000 is headed to Chesterfield County to fund critical planning needed to improve access and safety for the Meadowbrook Community, including improvements to the Hopkins Road/Chippenham Parkway interchange area, and the implementation of bike, pedestrian, and curbside pickup micro-transit options. The grant funds will help the county address vehicular safety and congestion issues occurring at the Hopkins Road/Chippenham Parkway interchange area while integrating a safe route and crossings for pedestrians. This project is a continuation of the county's success in building a strong pedestrian network to connect residents to community services in the area.

4. \$720,000 is headed to Herndon to develop a plan to redevelop the town's land use and development policies, transportation network, and economic and housing development policies.

*The **City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,700 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is available online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.*

You can also follow **Harrisonburg Public Works** on Facebook.

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