RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 2

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CITY OF KENSETT IN THE PROPOSED ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE CITY OF SEARCY IN ITS APPLICATION FOR THE FEDERAL RAISE RURAL PLANNING GRANT.

Whereas, the City of Searcy intends to apply for the US Department of Transportation RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) rural planning grant, with the intention to apply for a capital grant in the following year; and

Whereas, the city of Kensett recognizes the need for safe, alternative routes of transportation for its citizens without motorized vehicles to travel to places of employment, schools, health care, providers of essential services, retail establishments, and other destinations within and between Searcy and Kensett; and

Whereas, the purpose of the federal RAISE grant funding is to increase safety and quality of life, create connectivity and mobility, improve economic competitiveness, reduce environmental impacts, and provide equitable and accessible forms of transportation to all; and

Whereas, the City of Searcy proposes to extend their proposed trail plan for the RAISE grant into the city of Kensett, which adjoins Searcy, for the benefit of the citizens of Kensett; and

Whereas, the application process, planning process, and proposed capital project, if funds are awarded, will not represent any cost to the City of Kensett, other than the maintenance of the sections of trail with Kensett city limits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENSETT, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: The Kensett City Council approves allowing the City of Searcy to include improvements in the city limits of Kensett, Arkansas in its proposed trail plan, at no cost to the City of Kensett.

SECTION 2: The Kensett City Council authorizes the City of Searcy to include portions of the City of Kensett in its proposed trail plan and acknowledges that planning direction is at the sole discretion of the City of Searcy; however, the Kensett City Council understands that the planning department of the City of Searcy will use best efforts to accept feedback from the City of Kensett.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF January, 2024

Allen Edgar

Mayor of Kensett

ATTEST: Julie Whitney

City Clerk

City of Kensett

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February 05, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: RAISE planning grant-City of Searcy, AR active transportation trails network

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the City of Searcy's RAISE planning grant application.

The City of Searcy cares about its resident's future and present. They strive to find ways to give back to the community. They are constantly trying to make it a safe and better place for the citizens of not just their town but other small towns around it. Riverview high school is in Searcy, but the elementary school is in Kensett. We have many students that travel back and forth from these schools, and they do not currently have a trail that they can use to travel safely. This extended trail would provide that for the students and faculty, benefiting not only the residents of Searcy but to the residents and mostly kids of our small town. Searcy Leaders are always showing support for small outside communities in many different forms. To us here at the City of Kensett it speaks volumes about the leadership of Searcy and how they are in this for not only their community but the future of the communities that surround them. I could not think of anyone more deserving than Searcy, Arkansas and thankful to be their neighbors.

Searcy aims to expand its existing 7 miles of trails into a 19-mile, multi-use, active transportation system that will connect schools, businesses, hospitals and clinics, major employers, essential service providers, and amenities throughout Searcy and into the city of Kensett. With this expansion people in our town will have more opportunities to seek work as they will have a safe way to travel other than driving. We have many residents that use bikes as their main source of travel, and this will give them the opportunity to for safe and efficient travel, most importantly it provides safe travel for the Riverview students using bike/on foot, to get to and from the Riverview High school located in Searcy, Arkansas.

City of Kensett

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I feel that successful delivery of this project will improve the safety, quality of life, economic competitiveness, and opportunity for the residents of Searcy and Kensett and create greater connectivity and mobility by creating a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists.

Thank you,

Allen Edge

Mayor Allen Edge/ Mayor of Kensett, AR