

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ALONG THE 15TH STREET CORRIDOR THROUGH NCDOT PROJECT U-5860

WHEREAS, 15th Street serves as a major transportation corridor connecting U.S. 17 Business and U.S. 264 and carries significant local and regional traffic volumes;

WHEREAS, crash data collected between 2020 and 2024 documented 417 crashes along the corridor, including three fatal crashes and eleven disabling-injury crashes;

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has identified the corridor as exceeding statewide critical crash thresholds and requiring comprehensive safety improvements;

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has developed State Transportation Improvement Program Project U-5860, which proposes converting the corridor to a four-lane divided roadway with a raised median, dedicated turn lanes, improved traffic signals, and enhanced pedestrian facilities;

WHEREAS, engineering analysis indicates the proposed design is expected to reduce total crashes by approximately 57 percent and reduce fatal crashes by approximately 76 percent;

WHEREAS, the project includes multimodal safety improvements such as a 10-foot multi-use path, sidewalks, ADA-compliant pedestrian crossings, and enhanced signalized intersections to improve safety for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.

WHEREAS, the project represents approximately \$38.6 million in transportation infrastructure investment for the Washington community and includes upgrades to roadway infrastructure, stormwater systems, traffic signals, and city utilities;

WHEREAS, the project design has been refined through collaboration between NCDOT, the City of Washington, and community stakeholders, including adjustments to reduce right-of-way impacts and eliminate previously anticipated property relocations;

WHEREAS, the project is currently fully funded within the North Carolina Strategic Transportation Improvement Program, with right-of-way acquisition scheduled to begin in 2026;

WHEREAS, removal of the project from the STIP would require the project to be re-submitted and re-prioritized through statewide transportation funding cycles, potentially delaying safety improvements for many years and risking the loss of funding to other regions of the state;

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the importance of ensuring that public policy decisions regarding transportation infrastructure are guided by engineering analysis, safety data, and factual project information;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Washington affirms the importance of advancing transportation safety improvements along the 15th Street corridor and supports continued collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Transportation to ensure the project reflects community needs while maintaining its core safety objectives;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council encourages continued public engagement and the dissemination of accurate information regarding the project's design, impacts, and timeline.

Adopted this 13th day of April, 2026.

City of Washington, North Carolina



Mayor



City Clerk

