

# PROJECT READINESS

UEI: LHSBGS9Q9D81

The collaborators on this project have long-standing partnerships that span decades. These effective working relationships combined with the community's backing of the Downtown Master Plan is an ideal situation which lends itself to a speedy completion.

## DETAILED PROJECT SCHEDULE

After receiving the RAISE Grant Obligation notice, some elements of the project will be ready to begin construction or implementation almost immediately. Preliminary design, done by McGill & Associates, is already 75% completed and is expected to be finalized by spring of 2023. The RAISE grant application is for the construction of these projects being designed. The Town has begun preliminary design based off our existing conceptual plan. It is anticipated construction will be ready to commence in early 2024, after bidding occurs in late 2023.

The project will be finalized with the input from NC DOT Division 12 who has agreed to support the project and our team. This will ensure that we do not become susceptible to scope creep and stay within our planned timeline. Final community engagement will occur after the grant award date and will not only include residents and stakeholders at Gardner-Webb University but will also include input from the NC Vision Zero team, the NC DOT Integrated Mobility Division, and the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization. Funds will be obligated prior to June 30, 2027 and construction completed well in advance of the 2032 deadline to expend funds as outlined in the NOFO.

Milestone	2023				2024				2025			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>RAISE Milestones</b>		●										
<b>Design &amp; Engineering</b>	■	■	■	■	■							
<b>NEPA Documentation</b>				■	■							
<b>Utility Relocation</b>					■	■	■					
<b>Construction</b>						■	■	■	■			
Anticipated Award Date: June 28, 2023												

**Boiling Springs has the resources needed to accomplish the project on-time and within budget**

Support from NC DOT Division 12, NC IMD, NC Vision Zero	Ability to mobilize resources in a timely manner	Access to technical on-call consultants	In-house experience completing and implementing federal grants	Political, community, and internal support	Partnerships with community organizations	Confidence that the project will be a categorical exclusion (occurs within existing DOT ROW)
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## REQUIRED APPROVALS

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### **ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS AND REVIEWS**

#### **NEPA**

It is anticipated that this project qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion (CE) because the project will occur primarily within existing NCDOT ROW and limited ROW acquisition is anticipated. To comply with NEPA, we will process the project using NCDOT's CE Checklist to streamline project delivery.

#### **STATE AND LOCAL**

Letters of support have been provided in the submitted documents from elected officials, the GCLMPO, NC DOT Division 12, NC DOT Integrated Mobility Division, Gardner-Webb University, and other project partners for the Downtown Streetscape Project.

#### **NC DOT**

The Town has met with NC DOT and informed them of the RAISE application for these projects. DOT was also involved in the Downtown Master Plan process from which the Downtown Streetscape Project was derived.

#### **RIGHT-OF-WAY**

Limited ROW acquisition is anticipated. Partial acquisition of properties may be required for shifting the pedestrian sidewalk on the Gardner-Webb University side of the S. Main St. work. Given that GWU is a key partner in this project, they are already aware of the shift and are supportive of the move. Our anticipation is that the cost will be minimal for this in terms of acquisition. Given that a core component of this project is a road diet, most improvements will be implemented within the existing NCDOT ROW.

#### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

The Downtown Master Plan included a year-long process revolving around stakeholder input and feedback. The Downtown Streetscape Project will be no different. Currently, the Town is finalizing the design plans for the project and will include rigorous input from residents, University students and staff, and regional groups with an interest in the improvement of our downtown. The Town makes a conscious effort to reach out to historically disadvantaged communities near the project area and through multiple channels (social media, print material, phone calls, etc.).

### **A CLEAR PATH FORWARD**

*The experience of the groups involved and the commitment by such a diverse array of individuals or groups already proves the success of the Downtown Streetscape Project.*




*There is also a limited number of organizations involved and being able to accomplish a project with fewer moving parts also ensures its success.*

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**ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT RISKS AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

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The project team at Boiling Springs has identified the following potential risks and corresponding mitigation strategies in order to implement the project on schedule and within budget. With prior experience administering federal grants and with the support of NC DOT Division 12, the RAISE project will have minimal risk.

Category	Potential Risk	Mitigation Strategies
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Construction Impacts</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary construction detours may impact access and travel time</li> <li>• Maintenance of these expanded facilities over time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing construction in a timely manner and ensuring adequate time for project to start</li> <li>• Communicating detours to the community through multiple channels in multiple languages</li> <li>• Coordinating with businesses to minimize potential impacts to operations</li> <li>• The Town has a Public Works Department with 10 full-time employees who handle duties from paving repair to landscaping. Some of these employees also oversee critical infrastructure so they have a diverse skillset.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Project Costs</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional utility relocation costs could increase overall project costs</li> <li>• Material shortages and inflation causing volatility in materials and construction costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and engineering are underway to confirm utility relocation costs</li> <li>• Substantial contingency was included in the construction cost estimate to account for supply chain difficulties and current inflation rate</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Schedule</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Today's construction environment can be limiting when it comes to potential bidders and firms to complete the work</li> <li>• Project Partners are unfamiliar with RAISE Grant implementation and protocols</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have allowed for up to 6-months after contract award for construction to start. We have found flexibility in timeline to be beneficial so that firms can work the project into their schedule.</li> <li>• The staff in Boiling Springs has experience in implementing federal grants. Also, many of our partners (McGill &amp; Associates, Gardner-Webb, NC DOT, GCLMPO) are familiar with federal grants and willing to assist by consulting in any area needed. Also, the selection process for a project contractor will ensure that the firm selected has the capacity to report and implement as required.</li> </ul>