

Resolution



City Council
City of Wilmington
North Carolina

Introduced By: Rebecca L. Hawke, City Manager

Date: 4/7/2026

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for a \$17,500,000 Grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration FY2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program, Which Includes a Required Local Match of \$3,500,000, for the Riverfront Bulkhead Replacement Project

LEGISLATIVE INTENT/PURPOSE:

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2025, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (“EDA”) issued a call for project proposals to support economic development initiatives in communities across the United States; and,

WHEREAS, the EDA FY2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program (“Program”) will award investments in regions experiencing severe economic distress or other economic harm resulting from hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, floods, and other natural disasters; and,

WHEREAS, EDA funding seeks to help communities and regions devise and implement long-term economic recovery strategies through a variety of non-construction and construction projects to address economic challenges in areas where a Presidential declaration of a major disaster was issued; and,

WHEREAS, Wilmington was included in the disaster area under a declaration by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA-4837-DR, North Carolina), issued on October 19, 2024, in response to Potential Tropical Cyclone Eight; and,

WHEREAS, the Estimated Total Program Funding has \$1,447,000,000 available to award, and a minimum of 20% in local match funds required; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington recognizes the importance of fostering economic growth, job creation, and infrastructure improvement along the Riverfront; and,

WHEREAS, a 500-foot Riverfront segment between Princess St. and Chestnut St. is currently closed due to infrastructure degradation, creating a gap in the corridor that disrupts pedestrian connectivity, limits access to nearby businesses and destinations, and reduces activity along the historic riverfront; and,

WHEREAS, the deteriorating infrastructure also presents potential risks to adjacent utilities, environmental resources, and safe public use of the riverfront; and,

WHEREAS, restoring this segment will replace failing infrastructure, improve safety and accessibility, and reestablish a continuous waterfront corridor that supports small businesses, strengthens tourism, and enhances public use of the riverfront; and,

WHEREAS, the Riverfront Bulkhead Replacement Project (“Project”) will also improve infrastructure reliability, reduce risk to nearby assets, and reinforce the Riverwalk’s role as a catalyst for downtown economic activity while advancing regional goals for resilience, infrastructure stability, and quality of place; and,

WHEREAS, this application will request a total grant in the amount of \$17,500,000, which includes \$14,000,000 from the Program and a 20% required grant match of \$3,500,000 from the City, and which is intended to cover anticipated design, construction, and related costs for the Project; and,

WHEREAS, the required local grant match would be funded from the remaining funds for the North Riverwalk Marina project (2CCRF0810).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, the City Manager is hereby authorized to apply for total grant of \$17,500,000 from the FY2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program, which includes \$14,000,000 from the Program and a 20% required local grant match of \$3,500,000 from the City, for design and construction of the Riverfront Bulkhead Replacement project.

THAT, the City Manager is authorized to execute all necessary documents to complete the application process for the grant.

THAT, funding for the required \$3,500,000 required local grant match from the City has been identified and will be brought before Council for consideration of appropriation if the grant is awarded.

Adopted at a _____ meeting

On _____ 2026

Bill Saffo, Mayor

Attest:

Penelope Spicer-Sidbury, City Clerk