

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR ACTIVE REGIONAL MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION TRAIL
FY2023 RAISE GRANT APPLICATION
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BRIDGE NORTHEAST ARKANSAS (NEA)**

BETWEEN:

**The City of Jonesboro
The City of Paragould
The City of Brookland
Craighead County
Greene County**

**Mayor Harold Copenhaver
Mayor Josh Agee
Mayor Kenneth Jones
Judge Marvin Day
Judge Rusty McMillian**

RECITALS

1. The United States Department of Transportation has announced the opportunity to apply for \$25 Million in funding for surface projects under the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) FY2023 grant program.
2. As the lead applicant, The City of Jonesboro, Arkansas, will be submitting a grant application in conjunction with the cities of Paragould, Brookland, and the counties of Craighead and Greene. These entities agree to formulate a partnership, officially known as BRIDGE NEA (Northeast Arkansas) Partners. The BRIDGE NEA Partners' grant application seeks funding for Phase 1 of the BRIDGE NEA Multi-Use Transportation Project.
3. The MOU documents the partners' responsibilities regarding coordinated efforts in applying for Federal funding under the FY2023 grant program and delivering the Project.

AGREEMENT

It is in the Partners' understanding that if their RAISE FY2023 grant application is successful:

1. The City of Jonesboro is requesting \$18,800,000 for the ONE JONESBORO CONNECTIVITY MASTER PLAN NORTHERN SECTION, thenceforward to the connection toward the Craighead County Gravel Trail to Lake Frierson State Park. The City of Paragould and Greene County is requesting \$6,000,000 for the link of Crowley Ridge State Park to Lake Frierson State Park. Phase 1 of the BRIDGE NEA project also plans a connecting Bus Stop along Highway 49 in the City of Brookland for \$200,000, therefore making the total grant request \$25,000,000. Whereas Craighead County has already received funding for a Multi-Use Gravel Trail along Highway 141 that connects to Greene County.
2. The City of Jonesboro will serve as the lead applicant for the BRIDGE NEA funding Project.
3. Upon grant award, the City of Jonesboro will represent BRIDGE NEA. It will administer the Project under the received United States Department of Transportation certification agreement.
4. Upon grant award, the City of Jonesboro will represent BRIDGE NEA. It will enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement according to the United States Department of Transportation certification agreement to allow the City of Jonesboro to administer the Project as a certified local agency on behalf of a non-certified local agency.
5. With the City of Jonesboro oversight according to the United States Department of Transportation certification agreement, the BRIDGE NEA Partners may manage their section of the Project, the

City of Jonesboro shall manage its portion, the City Paragould and Greene County shall manage its area of the Project, and Craighead County shall manager its site of the Project. The City of Brookland shall manage the location of its Project. All work shall comply with the City of Jonesboro certification agreement with the United States Department of Transportation.

6. The City of Jonesboro will administer the awarded grant funds.
7. The FY 2023 RAISE grant funds are available for obligation only through September 30, 2027. Furthermore, the grant funds must be liquidated or paid out to the grant recipient by September 30, 2032, as described in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the grant.
8. This MOU shall become effective when all required signatures have been obtained and shall remain in effect until September 30, 2032, when this MOU automatically terminates, or until the Partners have executed the Intergovernmental Agreement regarding the delivery of the Project using RAISE FY2023 grant funds at which time the terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement will supersede this MOU, whichever is soonest.
9. The MOU is not intended to create a legally binding Agreement and is not a commitment by either Partner; it is designed to serve as a basis for forging an Intergovernmental Agreement between the parties.
10. This MOU shall be executed in several counterparts (facsimile or otherwise), all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one MOU, notwithstanding that all Partners are not signatories to the same counterpart. Each copy of this MOU so executed shall constitute an original.

City of Jonesboro

By: _____

Title: _____

DATE: _____

City of Paragould

By: _____

Title: _____

DATE: _____

City of Brookland

By: _____

Title: _____

DATE: _____

Greene County

By: _____

Title: _____

DATE: _____

Craighead County

By: _____

Title: _____

DATE: _____

