

Jonesboro Master Connectivity Plan RAISE Grant Summary

The City of Jonesboro, in partnership with Arkansas State University, plans to seek funding toward a Connectivity Master Plan. The Connectivity Master Plan will represent a comprehensive design for a multi-use trail that will connect key elements of Jonesboro's industry, amenities, and neighborhoods while equipping Jonesboro with a recreational tourist attraction that provides the opportunity for people to enjoy the culture, unique topography and the beautiful natural scenery of Crowley's Ridge.

The One Jonesboro: Connectivity Master Plan features cutting edge designs that will allow for an easy multi-use trail transit system weaving throughout Jonesboro. This comprehensive system will create a positive impact on issues currently faced within the community. The City of Jonesboro currently lacks in safe multimodal active transit access, such as defined pathways for pedestrians and non-vehicular transportation. The project will connect the central downtown hub to public infrastructure, parks and neighborhoods and ultimately create a connected system citywide.

The pillars upon which this project is built are increasing access, promoting improved healthcare, stimulating the economy in low income areas and a focus on redevelopment in and around opportunity zones.

The North Loop of the trail project will traverse through a network of low income areas, registered Opportunity Zones, and connect Downtown Jonesboro to Arkansas State University via a system centerpiece elevated flyover crossing to provide a safe exchange over multiple sets of active railroad tracks.

In addition to providing more than 21 miles of multimodal transportation infrastructure, the trail system plan includes areas for dedicated flood mitigation and broadband access points. When completed, the system will serve as a unique dual purpose piece of infrastructure by building both a regional tourist attraction and providing key tools for redeveloping needed areas of Jonesboro by addressing hyper-local needs.

This project will make a meaningful impact on quality of place in Jonesboro while creating valuable infrastructure that will benefit Northeast Arkansans for generations to come.