

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION
MAY 19, 2015 AGENDA**

Subject:	Action Required:	Approved By:
<p>A resolution authorizing the City of Little Rock to support University of Arkansas Little Rock's TIGER Grant for the University Avenue Corridor Revitalization Project.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ordinance √ Resolution Approval Information Report</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bruce T. Moore City Manager</p>
SYNOPSIS	<p>A resolution authorizing the City of Little Rock to support a United States Department of Transportation TIGER Grant by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's University Avenue Corridor Revitalization Project which will reconfigure the Asher and University Avenue intersection.</p>	
FISCAL IMPACT	<p>The grant application has a total project cost of approximately \$14,500,000.</p>	
RECOMMENDATION	<p>Approval of the resolution.</p>	
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION	<p>The grant application is a result of a series of meetings conducted by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) over the last twelve (12) years with the University District stakeholders, including property owners around UALR.</p>	
BACKGROUND	<p>This resolution authorizes the City of Little Rock to support a United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) TIGER Grant to convert University Avenue, beginning at Asher Avenue/Colonel Glenn Road, from a five (5)-lane roadway (two (2) northbound; three (3) southbound with turn-lanes) to a more pedestrian-friendly four (4)-lane</p>	

**BACKGROUND
CONTINUED**

roadway with landscaped median, sidewalks, pedestrian tables, bus pullouts, culminating with a two (2)-lane roundabout at 28th Street. The initial plan was developed by studioMAIN, to help establish a University Village on both sides of University Avenue. The University Village will better connect UALR to shops and restaurants on the east side and transform them into a more viable commercial success. Additionally, the project will provide a much safer walking environment for students and residents of the area, which includes visitors to the Mexican Consulate. The area in question is where a UALR professor was killed while crossing the street several years ago.

A study has been conducted by Jacobs Engineering to ensure that the levels of service for vehicular traffic will not be impaired by the reduction of one lane of traffic. This grant requires a minimum 20% match that can be a combination of in-kind, right-of-way, utility relocation, and cash contributions. Those assisting with the match will include Central Arkansas Water, UALR, and the City of Little Rock.