

# COMMUNITY CONNECTORS GRANT PROGRAM

June 27, 2023

---





# National Context

Destructive highway and “urban renewal” projects  
Need to repair harm, federal investments



I-579 Cap Project in Pittsburgh, PA. Photos from: <https://www.hdrinc.com/portfolio/i-579-urban-open-space-cap>



# Urban Renewal

“Northeast part of [Harrisonburg] is almost unrecognizable today, compared to what it was nearly 60 years ago.”

“They just came through, started demolishing all the homes in the neighborhood of people who lived there all their life.”



# Urban Renewal

1937



2022





# Community Connectors Grant

## Grant sponsors

- Smart Growth America, Equitable Cities, others
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

## Tailored technical assistance

## Purpose of grants

- communities separated/harmed by transportation infrastructure
- capacity building
- advance locally driven projects in communities

15 communities awarded



# Community Connectors Grant

## Harrisonburg context

- separated/harmed by North Mason Street
- “physical and emotional scar”

## Tailored technical assistance

- Flexible
- Collaborative

## Project ‘Team’

- partnerships
- control of infrastructure
- robust community engagement



# Desired Outcome

Collaboration to understand and acknowledge past harms and plan for reestablishing a safe and vibrant corridor connecting the Northeast Neighborhood and Downtown Harrisonburg



# General Area of Focus (Draft)







# Potential Team

City of Harrisonburg

Northeast Neighborhood Association

Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance

Other stakeholders/potential partners



# Next Steps

## Community Connectors Grant

- Submit by July 15
- Notified August or September
- Technical assistance 2024 – 2025

If successful, return to Council