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### **Project along Mason Corridor worth funding**

The city of Fort Collins is correct to pursue a federal grant for the **Mason Corridor**.

Fort Collins transportation officials have applied to the Federal Transit Administration's Small Starts Program for \$57 million to fund the **corridor**, which runs from Harmony Road through north Fort Collins. Overall, the **corridor** is expected to cost \$72 million. The FTA is expected to make a decision this fall.

Plans for the long-discussed **corridor** have evolved over the past few years. What was once considered primarily a transit **project** focusing on buses has become the route for smart development, with opportunities for residential and commercial development **along** the way. The UniverCity Connections effort has been key in uniting those with diverse interests such as Colorado State University, the city and the Poudre River in developing a common vision for the **corridor**.

While the vision for the **corridor** has evolved to engage more of the community, city leaders still have work to do to communicate to the general public just how this **project** has changed. They also must work hard to keep Colorado's congressional delegation informed of the plans.

Twice, city voters rejected transportation taxes that included **funding** for the original version of the **Mason Street Transportation Corridor**. Now, the city is pursuing federal - and potentially state matching funds - to complete this broader vision. City leaders must make sure this is a vision that residents support far beyond tax dollars.