

RESOLUTION 2020-22
APPROVAL OF PLAN CONFORMANCE FUNDING FOR ECONOMIC CORRIDOR
PLANNING FOR HOPATCONG BOROUGH

WHEREAS, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (Highlands Act) has created a public body corporate and politic with corporate succession known as the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (Highlands Council); and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Act authorizes the Highlands Council to enter into any and all agreements or contracts and execute any and all instruments to carry out any power, duty or responsibility under the Highlands Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 14 of the Highlands Act expressly requires mandatory Plan Conformance where municipalities, located wholly or partially in the Preservation Area, must revise and conform their local master plan and development regulations, as they relate to development and use of land in the Preservation Area, with the goals, requirements and provisions of the Regional Master Plan (RMP); and

WHEREAS, Section 15 of the Highlands Act provides for voluntary Plan Conformance where any municipality located wholly or partially in the Planning Area may voluntarily revise and conform their local master plans and development regulations, as they relate to the development and use of land in the Planning Area, with the goals, requirements and provisions of the Regional Master Plan at any time; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Act provides that an approval of a Petition for Plan Conformance entitles the conforming municipality with specific benefits including: planning grants, technical assistance, state aid, priority for projects, tax stabilization funds, a strong presumption of validity and extraordinary deference in the event of legal challenge, and legal representation; and

WHEREAS, Section 18 of the Highlands Act obligates the Highlands Council to establish a grant funding program to reimburse municipalities for reasonable expenses associated with Plan Conformance; and

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2008, the Highlands Council approved Resolution 2008-73 to provide grant funding for the Highlands municipalities to cover the reasonable expenses associated with revisions to master plans, development regulations or other regulations to conform them to the Regional Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council encourages every Highlands municipality to participate in the implementation of the Regional Master Plan and provides grants to assist Highlands municipalities in conforming with and implementing the goals, policies and objectives of the Regional Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the following municipality is in need of reimbursement-based grant funding for a redevelopment study for several areas in the community that it wishes to designate as Areas in Need of Redevelopment under the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law (N.J.S.A. 40:12A-1 et seq.). These include areas on Hopatchung Road, Lakeside Boulevard, and River Styx Road, each of which is located within the Borough's designated Highlands Center. The study will begin with a Highlands Resource Analysis to ensure that only RMP-compatible areas are considered:

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Plan Conformance Funding (not-to-exceed amount):

Municipality/County	Purpose	Amount
Hopatcong Borough	Economic Corridor Planning	\$32,700
Total		\$32,700

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council staff recommends that the Highlands Council authorize the execution of a Plan Conformance Grant Agreement with the aforementioned municipality for the funding allotted to the above-referenced task in the amount so designated, not to exceed in the aggregate, \$32,700; and

WHEREAS, the above-referenced \$32,700 allocation is included in the forthcoming FY 2021 Highlands Protection Fund Capital Budget; and

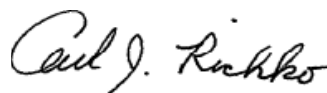
WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:20-5.j, no action authorized by the Highlands Council shall have force or effect until ten (10) days, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted, after a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Council has been delivered to the Governor for review, unless prior to expiration of the review period the Governor shall approve same, in which case the action shall become effective upon such approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Highlands Council hereby authorizes the Executive Director to execute a Plan Conformance Grant Agreement with the above listed municipality, at a not to exceed amount as set forth above;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Highlands Council hereby approves the above-referenced municipal funding in the Highlands Protection Fund Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 in order to provide grant funding for that Highlands municipality to cover the reasonable expenses associated with revisions to master plans, development regulations or other regulations to conform them to the Regional Master Plan, not to exceed \$32,700 in the aggregate.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 3rd day of December, 2020.



Carl J. Richko, Chairman

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Vote on the Approval of This Resolution	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilmember Alstede			√			
Councilmember Dougherty		√	√			
Councilmember Dressler			√			
Councilmember Francis						Recused
Councilmember Holtaway			√			
Councilmember James			√			
Councilmember Sebetich						√
Councilmember Van Abs			√			
Councilmember Visioli	√		√			
Councilmember Vohden			√			
Councilmember Walton			√			
Chairman Richko			√			