



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany
REGIONAL
commission

RVARC.ORG

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August 29, 2025

Smart Growth America
Community Connectors Program
Grant Application

Re: Orange Avenue & 11th Street NW – Demonstration Project – City of Roanoke

To whom it may concern

As the Executive Director of the **Roanoke Valley–Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC)**, I am pleased to express strong support for the City of Roanoke’s application to the Smart Growth America-**Community Connectors Program**. Our Director of Transportation Demand Management, **Andrea Garland**, encouraged the City to pursue this grant to build on the momentum of recent demonstration projects and to advance the City’s **Vision Zero goals**.

The Roanoke Valley–Alleghany Regional Commission is committed to improving transportation options throughout the region, with a focus on **Complete Streets, Vision Zero, and equity-based planning**. RVARC staff brings deep expertise in transportation planning and strong values of sustainability and community engagement. In fact, Andrea Garland was recognized as the **2023 Smart Growth America Complete Streets Changemaker** for her leadership in making Roanoke’s streets more inclusive for all users.

Participation in the Community Connectors Program will provide Roanoke with technical support, resources, and structured engagement framework needed to connect **safety, economic development, and placemaking** along the **Orange Avenue and 11th Street NW corridor**. Specifically, the program will help the city deliver a **quick-build demonstration project** at this dangerous intersection—an intervention that will both highlight safety improvements today and leverage future state and federal investments for long-term change.

The Regional Commission is committed to supporting this effort by:

- Providing Director-level oversight through Andrea Garland.
- Engaging an RVARC regional transportation planner in the program cohort.
- Supporting the planning and implementation of the demonstration project at Orange Avenue and 11th Street NW.
- Celebrating and documenting the demonstration project as a regional success.

MEMBER GOVERNMENTS: Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke
Cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem, Towns of Clifton Forge, Rocky Mount and Vinton



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These commitments will be maintained throughout the project cycle. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the City of Roanoke and to advancing the shared goal of **safe, equitable, and people-focused streets for all**.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Holmes

Executive Director

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission