

Narrative

January 3, 2023



RESOLUTION – NEBRASKA EDA TOURISM GRANT FOR CARHENGE TRAIL SYSTEM AND LIGHTING

Carhenge is a large tourist attraction for the City of Alliance, bringing in over 100,000 visitors annually. It is important to continue to make needed improvements to Carhenge to continue to attract visitors.

Nebraska Department of Economic Development has opened a grant application for EDA Tourism which would grant the City up to \$3,074,000.00 in funding to make much needed improvements to Carhenge on a reimbursement basis. There is no match required for this grant.

Recommended improvements with estimated cost are as follows:

1. Pave trail around Carhenge. 24,270 feet of trail. Estimated cost = \$250,000.00.
2. ADA Compliance. Estimated cost = \$25,000.00
3. Install lighting (ability to change colors per season). Estimated cost = \$25,000.00.
4. Install a digital sign to promote local businesses with the ability to update frequently. Estimated cost = \$50,000.00.

Total estimated cost of recommended improvements = \$350,000.00

Paving the trail around Carhenge will not only allow handicapped visitors to fully enjoy one of our largest tourist attractions, but also improve the appearance of Carhenge. The installation of lighting will extend the hours that tourists can visit, while allowing Carhenge to be included in events that it is currently excluded from (example: Visit Nebraska's Travel and Tourism Week). The installation of a digital sign at Carhenge will provide advertising opportunities to our local businesses, persuading our visitors to come into Alliance while also allowing frequent updates, whereas our current sign system lacks the ability to update without changing the entire sign.

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

The City Manager recommends the approval to submit this grant application for the total amount of \$350,000 to make these valuable improvements.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-02

WHEREAS, The City of Alliance has an opportunity to apply for grant funding from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to assist with tourism promotions, events, and attractions; and

WHEREAS, The grant application is requesting up to \$350,000 for improvements to the trail system at Carhenge; and

WHEREAS, If awarded, there is no local match requirement in the grant stipulations; and

WHEREAS, The Alliance City Council finds it in the best interest of the citizens of Alliance to apply for grant funding from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance, Nebraska, authorizes the submittal of a grant application with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for the purposes to make improvements to the trail system at Carhenge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Mayor is authorized to accept and execute all documents associated with this grant if approved.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 3rd day of January, 2023.

Mike Dafney, Mayor

(SEAL)

Attest: _____
Tarah S. Johnson, City Clerk

Approved as to Form and Legality:

Simmons Olsen Law Office, Legal Counsel