RESOLUTION NO. 26-78

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CITY OF DELAWARE'S SUPPORT FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE U.S. 23 CORRIDOR STUDY (ROUTE 23 CONNECT) AND ADOPTING THE ROUTE 23 CONNECT & US-23 TO I-71 CONNECTOR POSITION STATEMENT

WHEREAS, in 2025 the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) completed the *2024 Preliminary Feasibility Study* and the *U.S. 23 Corridor Action Plan* for the U.S. 23 Corridor Study, PID 112768 also referred to as Route 23 Connect.

WHEREAS, the Route 23 Connect study made recommendations for improvements to the US 23 corridor between Waldo, Ohio and I-270 in order to reduce travel time, improve travel time reliability, improve safety, and to improve consistency with local community goals.

WHEREAS, in 2026 ODOT and the Ohio Turnpike Commission completed the *US 23 / I-71 Connector Joint Plan Final Report,* as required by the state legislature, to evaluate the feasibility and identify a preferred route connecting US 23 to I-71 via a new highway north of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Delaware recognizes and emphasizes the need to reduce travel time, improve travel time reliability, and improve safety along the US 23 corridor and desires to provide comments re-emphasizing its support for the conclusions of Route 23 Connect.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Delaware, State of Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. The City of Delaware supports the conclusions of the U.S. *23 Corridor Study* (Route 23 Connect).

SECTION 2. The City of Delaware's position is that the primary focus to improve travel time and safety for motorists in the Delaware region, and for the Toledo to Columbus connection, should be to implement the high performing concepts identified in the *U.S. 23 Corridor Action Plan, January 2025*.

SECTION 3. The City of Delaware hereby adopts the attached *Route 23 Connect & US-23 to I-71 Connector Position Statement* dated October 2026 including the conclusions therein as its position relative to Route 23 Connect and the US-23 to I-71 Connector.

SECTION 4. The City Engineer shall provide a copy of this resolution to ODOT, elected state representatives, and other officials as appropriate, to make known the City's support and advocate for the Route 23 Connect recommendations.

SECTION 5. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council and any of its committees concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public, all in compliance with the law including Section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

PASSED: _____, 2026 YEAS____ NAYS____

ABSTAIN ____

ATTEST: _____ _____

CITY CLERK MAYOR