

Contact

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Project Information

Year Complete: 2021  
Location: Wilmington, DE  
Client: City of Wilmington  
Contact: Jeff Flynn, Director, Economic Development

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Key Technical Applications

- Benefit-Cost Analysis
- Equity Analyses and Impact on Communities
- Grant Application Support

# Wilmington Riverfront Transportation Infrastructure Project

## USDOT RAISE Grant Application

### Project Background

The City of Wilmington’s Riverfront Transportation Infrastructure Project is a key component of its Comprehensive Plan, and The South Market Street Master Plan which includes redevelopment of the Christina Riverfront Corridor. The Master Plan, the product of a public-private partnership, sets in motion the development of a dynamic, sustainable, mixed-use urban neighborhood. The \$92.3M Transportation Infrastructure Project is crucial for the integration of the future neighborhood with downtown Wilmington and its transportation network via new street connections that will include safe bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The City was awarded \$17M from the 2021 cycle of the highly competitive USDOT RAISE Grant program.

### Econsult Solutions Completed the Successful Grant Application Resulting in an Award of \$17M

Having experience with USDOT grant programs, ESI completed the City of Wilmington’s application for project funding. ESI developed a detailed project narrative that addressed USDOT RAISE program criteria, which ranges from Safety, to Economic Competitiveness, and includes Environmental Sustainability, Quality of Life, Innovation, and a testament of the partnerships, state and local, that make a project viable. ESI prepared an objective Benefit-Cost Analysis, as well as the required Equity Analysis and Impact on Communities assessment.

### Benefit-Cost Analysis

ESI’s Benefit Cost Analysis quantified the benefits to society of the project and compares the benefits to the commitment of resources needed to achieve the benefits. The analysis demonstrated that the project’s quantifiable benefits significantly outweigh the costs, ranging from 2.5 to 5.9 times the projected total amount.

### Equity Analysis and Impact on Communities

The 2021 RAISE grant application round was the first time that USDOT included equity and community impact criteria. ESI, having a robust Equity and Inclusion practice, drew on this expertise to identify the demographic and socioeconomic composition of the communities that will benefit most from the project. The equity analysis addressed the degree to which the project promotes racial equity, addressed barriers to opportunity, and served underserved communities. The analysis shows that the project is well positioned to benefit minority communities, low-income households, and households without ready access to transportation.

