RESOLUTION NO. 05-12 INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Luks

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA) FOR FUNDS THROUGH THE TRANSPORTATION FOR LIVABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE (TLCI) PLANNING GRANT FOR THE TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN LINKAGES STUDIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON'S PROPOSED MIXED USE TRADITIONAL TOWN CENTER DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS: Current transportation and pedestrian-friendly deficiencies exist within the Central Business District (CBD); and

WHEREAS: The 2002 Central Business District Design Charrette conducted by the Urban Design Center of Northeast Ohio (UDC) in conjunction with the North Royalton Master Plan Task Force and the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission concluded that despite its many existing strengths and potential for further development, the CBD currently appears as an uncoordinated and confusing environment which offers little to attract new investment. The overall density of development is insufficient to activate the area and fails to create a cohesive "sense of place," or clearly recognizable district. Buildings vary widely in architectural character and condition and are haphazardly sited in relation to each other. The streetscape is harsh and dominated by traffic, with minimal landscaping and few amenities to encourage pedestrian activity. Sidewalks—where they exist—are unsheltered and uninteresting, and frequently interrupted by curb cuts and the often poorly defined entries and exits of parking lots. Overall, the area fails to achieve any of the functional or aesthetic characteristics of a successful town center and its chaotic appearance creates a poor impression of the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS: The comprehensive Master Plan adopted August 24, 2004, defines the current CBD within Planning Area 5; and

WHEREAS: Planning Area 5 of the Master Plan recommends that the city should seek development proposals that are consistent with the vision established in the CBD Design Charrette, which calls for the creation of a higher density mixed use district that includes residential, multistory office, retail and civic uses; and

WHEREAS: The creation of a mixed use traditional town center district requires a proactive approach to encouraging redevelopment that is consistent with the goal of adding a broader tax base in the city. This goal is a significant underpinning of the Master Plan and is an outgrowth of the recommendations made by Strategic Public Policy, Inc. in its 2004 Financial Analysis and Cost of Services Study; and

WHEREAS: This planning grant will permit the City of North Royalton to study and evaluate transportation improvements and alternatives over the next six (6) to eighteen (18) months that will reduce single occupancy vehicle (SOV) traffic in, around and leading to the CBD, and will support the future development, success and economic sustainability of a mixed use pedestrian friendly town center district; and

WHEREAS: The goals of the Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) are the goals of the City of North Royalton as they relate to the new traditional town center project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON, COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA AND STATE OF OHIO, THAT:

Section 1. The Mayor and the Director of Community Development are hereby authorized to file an application with the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) for funds for the planning funds through the Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) Planning Grant to study and evaluate transportation and pedestrian linkages associated with the City of North Royalton's proposed mixed use traditional town center district and to commit a 20% match of funds awarded.

Section 2. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all such deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 3. This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the city and for the usual daily operation of the city for the reasons set forth and defined in the preamble to this Resolution.

THEREFORE, provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

_____ APPROVED: _____

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL MAYOR

DATE PASSED: _____ DATE APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____

DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

YEAS:

NAYS: