

CITY OF WASHINGTON

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Manier and Committee of the Whole
FROM: Jon R. Oliphant, AICP, Planning & Development Director
SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan/TCRPC Funding
DATE: June 8, 2017

Funding was included in the FY 17-18 budget to complete a new comprehensive plan. This would replace the last full plan done in 2001 and amended in 2009, as considerable residential growth has occurred in that time. The comprehensive plan is an important document that helps guide growth and the allocation of future resources. This year's budget has \$35,000 included and an equal or slightly higher amount is planned for FY 18-19 to have a minimum of \$70,000 for the total project. Staff envisions being able to utilize our GIS to support the mapping components as well as assisting with public input. The project is anticipated to be completed in around 12 months. Topics to be included in the plan would address land use, transportation (motorized and non-motorized), parks and recreation, economic development, public safety/public buildings, housing, infrastructure, zoning and subdivision regulation and review, floodplain control, sustainability/environment, community character and design, and education. The maps, goals and objectives, and graphics are important in guiding future growth, policy decisions, and to utilize in the pursuit of grant funding.

Staff has had conversations with the City of East Peoria to undertake a joint planning process. East Peoria is also in need of a new comp plan, as it has experienced considerable commercial growth since it was originally adopted in 2005. While this is proposed to be a joint process, each community would have their own separate plans. This idea was pitched because both cities share similar demographics and market characteristics, have had a boundary line agreement since 1997, and there is the potential to save on costs by utilizing the same consultant.

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) recently announced its annual call for projects for the FY2018 Special Transportation Projects funding. This is the same source that the City of Washington with East Peoria, Morton, and Pekin received funding for the non-motorized wayfinding study that is in progress. TCRPC has \$90,000 available and projects that have a budgeted source and include multiple entities are prioritized. While the entire comprehensive plan is not an eligible project, any components that have a transportation connection can receive funding. While a case can be made that much of the plan has a tie to transportation, the sections specifically addressing transportation and sustainability/green infrastructure would be included in an application.

The application is due by June 16 to TCRPC. It anticipates approval of any projects at the August 2 PPUATS Policy meeting. This timeline would fit well with a late summer RFP timeline, with a goal of finishing the plan by the fall of 2018. The staffs of East Peoria and Washington have proposed submitting an application seeking \$30,000 to cover those eligible components, which would reduce the City's share of the project. Staff seeks the authority to proceed with the application at the June 12 Committee of the Whole meeting.