



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: March 9, 2020

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Agenda Item: Lakeshore Drive STBG Consideration

Explanation: The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) recently announced a call for projects for the FY 2023-24 cycle of the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program, formerly named Surface Transportation – Urban (STU). This is for new construction/reconstruction projects. A pilot program initiated with the FY 2020-22 cycle that allocates 20% of the region's federal funds for resurfacing/maintenance projects will continue for this funding round, though those applications will have a separate call for projects later in 2020. STBG projects are funded on a 70/30 basis. Applications are due to TCRPC by April 10. All applicants must submit an approved resolution by April 30 signifying its commitment to the 30% local cost share. Approximately \$6.2 million is available for eligible construction/reconstruction projects over the two funding years. Engineering and right-of-way acquisition are not eligible for STBG assistance.

Staff has previously submitted three STU applications for the completion of Freedom Parkway. The last submittal included the construction of a portion of Lakeshore Drive from north of its terminus at Business Route 24. Staff plans to submit an application for funding for the FY 23-24 cycle for much of the remaining construction with the possible exception of roughly the eastern 30% of the road, which could be expedited solely using local funds upon the finish of Phase I and II engineering. The current City FY 19-20 budget has \$1 million included for construction for Freedom/Lakeshore and the desire would be to use those funds for the eastern section of Freedom (approximately 1,000 lf) as early as late 2021. The remainder of the road carries a tentative cost estimate of \$2.4 million, though this will be refined as much as possible prior to the STBG submittal upon the initiation of the Phase I engineering. If that estimate is utilized for the application, STBG would cover about \$1.68 million and the City would be responsible for approximately \$720,000.

Staff seeks feedback on whether to include any of Lakeshore as part of the STBG application. If there is interest in this, it would commit the City to complete the Phase I and II engineering, which are not eligible for STBG assistance. Additionally, the City would also likely need to show a strong commitment to completing all of Lakeshore in a timely manner. This would ensure that IDOT does not allow for an access break on Business 24 without knowing that the road will connect with Freedom. It should also be noted that the reconstruction and mill-and-overlay of Business 24 is now included in IDOT's 5-year plan. IDOT will be completing the engineering associated with Business 24, though it would likely require the City to fund the additional engineering needed to determine if warrants are met for a stoplight at Lakeshore.

Fiscal Impact: Pending feedback at the March 2 City Council meeting, staff has tentatively budgeted \$150,000 for Phase I engineering in FY 20-21 and \$135,000 for Phase II engineering in FY 21-22. The total Lakeshore construction is estimated at \$2.3 million if broken into two stages. The first stage, which could stub the road approximately 600 feet north to the back of the Stock & Field store and could be included as part of an STBG request, would cost approximately \$800,000. If selected, the grant would cover \$560,000 and the City would be responsible for \$240,000 of the cost. The remainder of the construction is tentatively budgeted for FY 24-25 at a cost of \$1.5 million. A spreadsheet is attached to visually show the breakdown in Freedom and Lakeshore engineering and construction cost estimates.

Action Requested: Staff requests feedback on whether to include any of the construction of Lakeshore Drive in the upcoming STBG application. The Public Works Committee discussed this at its meeting on March 2 and requested that it be brought to the next Committee of the Whole meeting for further consideration.

