



## **CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS**

### **Public Works Committee Agenda Communication**

**Meeting Date:** September 8, 2020

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**Agenda Item:** ITEP Project Application Consideration

**Explanation:** IDOT recently opened its call for projects for the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). Applications must be submitted to IDOT by November 2. You will recall that the City was most recently awarded ITEP funds to complete Phase I Engineering to complete streetscape improvements on the Square.

As is the case with prior cycles, ITEP provides funding on an 80/20 basis for eligible projects including recreation trails and streetscape enhancements. Besides the Square streetscape engineering, the City has received ITEP funds for three rec trail projects previously. The City applied for the completion of all engineering and construction for the Square project in 2017 but was only awarded the PE I portion of the project when the grants were announced in 2018. The PE I project is nearly complete; the City's consulting engineer (Hutchison Engineering) finished the bulk of the work necessary to submit a Project Development Report to IDOT. The primary item still requiring verification is whether the State Historic Preservation Office will allow for the interior coping wall to be slightly reduced in size to help in allowing larger trucks to more adequately maneuver around it. Having PE I nearly complete helps in the scoring of future applications.

This year's cycle has considerably more funds allocated (\$105.6 million) compared to 2017 (\$40 million). However, the majority of this (\$75 million) is set aside for trails projects. Applicants can apply for a maximum of \$2 million per project in ITEP funds. New to this year's program is that 25% of the funds will be set aside for high-need communities; applicants that qualify as such will either have a local match of 0-10% instead of the customary 20%. An announcement of awards is anticipated in the spring of 2021.

**Fiscal Impact:** The FY 20-21 budget includes \$75,000 for the completion of PE II and more than \$300,000 for various construction improvements as part of the TIF 2 Fund that can be used to meet a 20% local match requirement. The remaining project (engineering and construction) carries a current estimated price tag of just less than \$2 million. With ITEP awards expected in the spring of 2021, any expenditure of funds would almost certainly be in FY 21-22. The City's TIF is currently set to expire at the end of 2021.

**Action Requested:** Staff seeks feedback on the possible submittal of an ITEP application. Consideration of an application for the remainder of engineering and subsequent construction for the Square streetscape project is likely the one that has the best chance of being awarded.