



Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: April 19, 2021

Re: Potential Pedestrian Scramble Intersection Pilot Project at 9th Street & Elm Street

Executive Summary

Based on Council direction, staff sought bids for constructing a pedestrian scramble pilot project at 9th Street & Elm Street. The project was bid in January 2021 with the lowest bid being \$325,638.80 for the construction.

Discussion

In 2015, Council provided direction to try and pursue a pedestrian scramble pilot project at 9th Street & Elm Street, in conjunction with a major sewer and stormwater reconstruction project. It was thought that pursuing the scramble intersection improvements could be less costly if pursued in conjunction with the stormwater and sewer construction. However, due to conflicting issues with the stormwater and sewer improvements, there were not enough funds available at that time to pursue the pedestrian scramble improvements with the sewer and stormwater project. The sewer and stormwater reconstruction has been completed.

Staff has re-bid the pedestrian scramble pilot project and while the City did receive competitive bids between four contractors for the work, the lowest bid was \$325,638.80 and the current funding available for the project is \$247,842.77. Additional funds would need to be allocated to the pedestrian scramble pilot project, if it is to be pursued. The bid tabulation is attached.

It is staff's opinion that the relatively high cost for this pedestrian scramble pilot project would be better applied to other known pedestrian improvement needs in the City. In conversations with the Bicycle Pedestrian Commission (B/P), staff knows of a concern regarding pedestrian and bicycle accommodations near the I-70 and Rangeline Street, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) maintained 763 underpass. The B/P Commission has indicated a desire to improve non-motorized facilities at that location.

Based on conversations with MoDOT representatives, there are several possible alterations at the interchange that might be pursued by MoDOT in the coming years. However, it is anticipated that none of those alterations would significantly change the curb line on the west side of Rangeline. Currently, there is not a sidewalk on the west side of the Rangeline Street Underpass (there is a wide sidewalk on the east side). There is limited sidewalk connectivity on the west side of Rangeline Street north and south of the underpass. Also, recently approved private developments north and south of the interchange/underpass are going to build new sidewalks with the private development (construction anticipated 2021/2022).



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Staff recommends that the programmed funds for the pedestrian scramble pilot project be used to seek a cost share with MoDOT or otherwise be used for improvements with respect to pedestrian connectivity on the west side of Rangeline Street, generally between Vandiver Drive and Business Loop 70. While the focus could be sidewalk directly at the underpass, there is a gap in sidewalk between one of the developments and Business Loop 70 that might be beneficial to include in a project, if a cost share with MoDOT is funded.

An explanatory diagram and photos are attached.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$247,842.77 if the currently programmed funds are used.

Long-Term Impact: The city may be responsible for maintenance of some sidewalk along Rangeline if a project is pursued. Unknown as to long term costs due to unknown scope.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Public Safety, Tertiary Impact: Social Equity

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities

Legislative History

Date	Action
03/07/2016	B35-16 Authorizing construction of the Flat Branch Watershed Relief Sewer Project No. 3, the Ninth and Elm Pedestrian Scramble Project and the Ninth and Elm Storm Drainage Replacement Project; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division.
07/06/2015	R107-15 Setting a public hearing: replacement of traffic signal equipment and construction of improvements at the intersection of Ninth Street and Elm Street, more specifically described as the Ninth and Elm Pedestrian Scramble Project.
08/03/2015	PH (D) Replacement of traffic signal equipment and construction of improvements at the intersection of Ninth Street and Elm Street, more specifically described as the Ninth and Elm Pedestrian Scramble Project.



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10/05/2015	R158-15 Authorizing an agreement for professional engineering services with Engineering Surveys and Services for the Ninth and Elm Pedestrian Scramble project.
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Suggested Council Action

Provide staff with guidance regarding pursuing the 9th Street & Elm Street pedestrian scramble pilot project, or to instead pursue a sidewalk project along Rangeline Street.