



Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: September 16, 2024

Re: Authorize a cost share agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and a cost share agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation for the FY 2023 Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant program.

Executive Summary

Authorize the City Manager to execute a cost share agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and to execute a cost share agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation for the FY 2023 Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Grant program. The grant will fund a study along the I-70 Business Loop Corridor at an estimated cost of \$2,663,500.

Discussion

On September 18, 2023, Council adopted Resolution 136-23 authorizing the City Manager to apply to the U.S. Department of Transportation for a planning grant to complete a study of the I-70 Business Loop corridor. The Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) grant is a joint funding opportunity for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) and the Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) programs through the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). The purpose of the funding grant is to invest in surface transportation projects that will prioritize disadvantages communities; improve access to daily needs; foster equitable development and restoration; and remove transportation related barriers.

The planning grant will study the I-70 Business Loop corridor between Stadium Boulevard and Eastland Circle. The study will include improving safety for both motorized and non-motorized users, improving accessible multimodal operations, providing aesthetics along the corridor, and improving economic vitality. Features proposed to be studied will include a complete streets design, intersection improvements, bike lanes and pedestrian connection improvements, aesthetic improvements, and storm water improvements. The improvements strive to reinvigorate the corridor, connect a number of historically disadvantaged and underserved communities, and support a growing network of community services, education opportunities, and commercial centers along the corridor.

The study will include:

1. Engaging in community outreach
2. Evaluation of the environmental items related to the NEPA review process
3. Evaluation of conceptual alternatives
 - a. Complete street implementation (vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists)
 - b. Access management
 - c. Intersection improvements
 - d. Stormwater improvements



- e. EV charging stations optimal locations
- f. Streetscape and beautification elements
- 4. Development of preliminary plans
- 5. Development of a stormwater master plan.

The Business Loop Community Improvement District (Loop CID) and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) are core stakeholders with the City in implementing the project. The Loop CID works to improve and revitalize the Business Loop between College Ave and I-70 DR SW and the entire length of I-70 Business Loop is owned and maintained by MoDOT. MoDOT will be the recipient of the grant and will provide project oversight. The City is the subrecipient and will manage the project. The Loop CID will also be largely involved in the project execution. The total anticipated study cost is \$2,663,500 and a 20% local match is required. Therefore, the federal funding is \$2,130,800 with a match of \$500,000 from the City and \$32,700 from the Business Loop CID. Funding for the City's match will be from the quarter-cent capital improvement program sales tax.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The City's local match of \$500,000 will be funded by the quarter-cent capital improvement program sales tax.
 Long-Term Impact: Unknown.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Inclusive Community, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

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

Legislative History

Date	Action
09/08/2023	R136-23 Authorizing application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) planning grant to study the I-70 Business Loop corridor between Stadium Boulevard and Eastland Circle.

Suggested Council Action

Authorize the City Manager to execute a cost share agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and to execute a cost share agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation for the FY 2023 Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Grant program.