



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: October 5, 2020

Re: Public Hearing to Consider Options to Provide Enhanced Fall Protection and Related Self-Harm Deterrent Measures for the Fifth Street and Walnut Street Municipal Parking Structure.

Executive Summary

A public hearing is being held to consider options for fall protection and self-harm deterrent measures for the Fifth and Walnut Street Parking Structure. A virtual Interested Parties (IP) meeting was held August 17 – August 31, 2020.

Discussion

The 2020 budget was adopted at the September 16, 2019 Council meeting, included in the Parking Utility budget was a line item of \$300,000 to begin a process to investigate methods for implementing fall protection and self-harm measures for the Fifth and Walnut Street parking structure. Since opening in 2011, individuals have used the Fifth and Walnut Street parking structure to cause self-harm. Due to these events, the Parking Utility would like to explore options that may lower the chance that an individual would use the parking structure at Fifth and Walnut Street to attempt to cause self-harm in the future.

At the February 3, 2020 Council meeting, Council authorized an agreement with Walker Consultants to perform conceptual design consulting services relative to providing enhanced fall protection and self-harm deterrent measures that would exceed the requirements of the building code at the time of the original design of the structure. The agreement included a scope of work indicating Walker Consultants would participate in community engagement sessions to discuss enhanced fall protection options, industry data and other relevant information. Due to COVID 19, Walker has been under a travel ban and has not been able to schedule and participate in community discussions. Staff instructed Walker to prepare conceptual renderings of fencing and screening options for the structure.

Staff proceeded with a virtual IP meeting from August 17-31, 2020 and issued a press release asking for public comment on the proposed concepts. Staff received 40 comments with all but one requesting staff move forward with the proposed concept of fencing and window panels, and one suggesting signage to be placed in the elevators and stairwells to offer 24/7 hotline assistance. Staff will work with our Health Department for signage recommendations.

Investment for this project is estimated at an initial \$300,000, which will be paid from the Parking Utility Enterprise Fund. The proposed construction is expected to begin this fall/winter.



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Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The initial budget is \$300,000 from Parking Utility retained earnings; depending on the final scope of work and receiving construction bids, there may be a need to appropriate more money.

Long-Term Impact: Minor maintenance of the fencing and panels.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

| Date | Action |
|------------|--|
| 09/21/2020 | R110-20 – Setting a Public Hearing to consider options to provide enhanced fall protection and related self-harm deterrent measures for the Fifth and Walnut Street municipal parking structure. |
| 02/03/2020 | R19-20 - Authorizing an agreement for professional services with Walker Consultants for conceptual design consulting services. |

Suggested Council Action

After the public hearing and Council discussion, direct staff to move forward with construction plans and specifications for fall protection and self-harm measures for the Fifth and Walnut Street municipal parking structure.