

Department Source: Economic Development
To: City Council
From: City Manager & Staff
Council Meeting Date: March 16, 2026
Re: Authorizing a MoDOT Cost-Share Grant Application
Impacted Ward: Ward 3

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) Transportation Cost Share Program. The funding request will be for a signalized interchange on Route B and for a portion of a Collector Road that's part of CATSO's Major Roadway Plan. Staff believes that the signalized interchange will increase safety and facilitate employment growth.

Discussion

Columbia's Route B, between 63 & Waco Road, is home to 2,000 jobs, especially in manufacturing jobs that pay family-sustaining wages. A 2023 Safety Audit and a 2025 Access Study show that the creation of a signalized interchange is warranted between Schneider Electric and JBS Prepared Foods to increase safety and foster employment growth. The new Route B signal would be at the intersection of the "Major Collector" road which can be found on CATSO's Major Roadway Plan.

MoDOT's Cost Share Program can help fund this project. MoDOT's Cost Share Program is designed to build partnerships with local entities to pool efforts and resources to deliver state highway and bridge projects. Route B is a MoDOT-operated road. MoDOT works in cooperation with the Department of Economic Development (DED) and can fund projects at 100% when targeted investments can be made to create jobs. Cost Share applications are due by April 6, 2026.

CBB, a transportation engineering and planning firm, conducted a 2023 Road Safety Audit (RSA) that recommended adding another signalized intersection between US 63 and Waco Road to provide a crossing for pedestrians, help slow down vehicles, provide signalized access for adjacent businesses, and as a complement to a future backage road system.

CBB's 2023 RSA recommended a new Route B signalized interchange. CBB's follow-on Access Study in 2025 continued this recommendation given strong growth among Route B employers. Schneider Electric expects to add 240 employees by 2028. JBS's Head of Operations expects their Route B facility to grow from 262 employees today to 325 in the coming years and possibly even 700+ employees in the longer-term pending market trends and demand. Given the employment growth, the study found that a signalized interchange is warranted and that without this interchange and Collector Road, the drives for Schneider Electric and JBS Prepared Foods are expected to operate at a level of service "F" at afternoon peak times. A letter from MoDOT also stated that a signalized interchange is warranted.

The cost for the signalized intersection is expected to be roughly \$500,000. The 300-foot portion of the Collector Road connecting to the interchange from the west is estimated to cost \$860,109 and the 550-foot portion of the Collector Road connecting to the signal from the east is estimated to cost \$1,350,505. The City intends to ask for Cost Share Funds to cover 100% of the signalized interchange and as much of the Collector road portions as MoDOT is willing to fund. Schneider Electric and JBS Prepared Foods have both committed to funding a portion of the Collector Roads. We expect that the City may fund a portion of this work. Business and City funding amounts will be determined as MoDOT funding levels are determined.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The City will be expected to supplement MoDOT and manufacturer funding at a to-be-determined amount

Long-Term Impact: City will need to maintain built portion of Collector road

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Resilient Economy, Tertiary Impact: Safe Community

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Economic Development, Tertiary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	Not applicable

Suggested Council Action

The Economic Development and Public Works Departments respectfully request authorization to apply for MoDOT's Cost Share Program by its April 6 deadline.