



CITY OF CONCORD

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Community Development Department

Engineering Services

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REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Martha Drukker, Associate Engineer
Matthew R. Walsh, Deputy City Manager - Development

DATE: July 30, 2025

SUBJECT: McKee Square) Improvement Project (CIP #31)

Recommendation

1. Accept this report; and,
2. Set the attached resolution for public hearing on September 8, 2025 1) authorizing the City Manager to enter into agreements / contracts with the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) for CMAQ Program funding and project administration in conjunction with the McKee Square Intersection Improvements Project (City CIP #31; State Project #44298), and 2) appropriating the sum of \$3,664,480.97 CIP #31, McKee Square Intersection Improvements, comprised of \$3,169,480.97 of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program funds from the NH Department of Transportation and \$495,000 of City funds consisting of General Fund supported bonds and notes.

Background

The intersection of South Street, Clinton Street, and Broadway is known as McKee Square. Intersection improvements for McKee Square are included in the City's Capital Improvement Program as CIP #31.

CIP #31 was initially created by Council in FY2000 as a result of traffic improvements recommended in a 1990 Traffic Operations Improvement Plan prepared by Vanasse, Hangen, Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) to address significant crash history at the Broadway/West intersection. The 1990 Study originally envisioned installation of traffic signals at the Broadway/West intersection, as well as replacement of existing aging signal equipment at the Broadway/Clinton/South intersection.

In FY2010, the City appropriated \$40,000 to prepare a comprehensive engineering study of the McKee Square. The purpose of the study was to identify and review potential intersection improvements to minimize congestion and improve vehicular and pedestrian safety, enhance the quality of life for the surrounding

neighborhoods, as well as bring this intersection into compliance with the City's Complete Streets Policy and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) federal requirements.

The study and associated conceptual design alternatives were accepted by the City Council in 2012. As a result of that process, a roundabout was identified as the City's preferred design alternative for this intersection.

In FY2023 the City appropriated \$100,000 to complete an update to the 2012 traffic study and conceptual design alternatives for potential intersection improvements.

In November 2022, the City submitted a letter of intent to apply for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant to the NH Department of Transportation to support the project. The CMAQ program is a federally funded reimbursement program that provides up to 80% of funds for projects that improve air quality by reducing the amount of vehicular emissions. The grant application was authorized by City Council on December 12, 2022, and the grant application was filed in early 2023. Grant rounds for CMAQ funds only occur every 4 years, subject to Congressional appropriations.

In FY2024 the City appropriated the sum of \$275,671 for preliminary design of intersection improvement alternatives.

On August 23, 2024 the NHDOT awarded a \$2,447,852 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant to support the project. At the time, \$2,447,852 CMAQ award was predicated upon an estimated total project cost of \$3,059,815 as calculated by the NH Department of Transportation.

The adopted FY2026 Capital Improvement Program included \$400,000 for final design and permitting of intersection improvements. Of this total, \$375,000 were grants, which were "asterisked" in the CIP and not appropriated during the FY2026 Budget process. However, the \$25,000 of City funds were appropriated.

Construction of the intersection improvements is tentatively programmed for FY2027 in the Capital Improvement Program.

Discussion

The design, permitting, and construction of the McKee Square Project will be managed directly by the City via the NH Department of Transportation's Local Public Agency (LPA) program. LPA projects are transportation projects administered directly by municipalities which are funded, in part, by State/Federal grant. The Engineering Division of the Community Development Department has administered multiple LPA projects with the State.

On July 11, 2025, the NH Department of Transportation provided the City with required agreements for the project. In order to proceed, the City must adopt the necessary resolutions to authorize the City Manager to execute said agreements, as well as to accept the CMAQ grant and appropriate associated City matching funds.

The total estimated project cost for CIP #31 (design, permitting, right-of-way, and construction), as presently programmed in the State of New Hampshire's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is \$3,961,851.21. Of this total, \$3,169,480.97 is programmed to be supported by the CMAQ grant funds (which is an increase over the original August 2024 CMAQ grant award due to the increase in estimated total project

cost) and \$792,370.24 is programmed to be supported by City funds. Recognizing previously appropriated City funds in FY2024 and FY2026, which total \$300,671 and qualify as matching funds for the CMAQ grant, a net additional appropriation of City funds in the amount of \$491,699.24 is be required. City Administration recommends that the City's supplemental funds be General Fund supported General Obligation Bonds. As such, the appropriation of City matching funds has been rounded to the nearest \$5,000 (\$495,000), as is the City's customary practice for issuance of bonds and notes.

Once required contract and agreements are in place, work to further refine intersection design alternatives will proceed, and community meetings will be held to receive input thereon. Following community meetings, the final preferred design concept will be presented to City Council for acceptance prior to proceeding with design development.

Upon acceptance of the final design alternative by City Council, the project will advance to design development, and the State / Federal permitting process will be initiated. Additionally, the total project cost will be updated. In the event additional funding is required, additional CMAQ money may be awarded by the State subject to available funds. Additional matching City funds would be pursued as might be required.

Presently, it is anticipated that construction of the project will tentatively commence in summer 2027.