



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Edward L. Roberge, PE, City Engineer

DATE: September 26, 2016

SUBJECT: Resolution rescinding and de-authorizing the sum of \$1,440,000 of Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds from the NH Department of Transportation as no longer necessary, and appropriating the sum of \$1,250,000 and the authorization of bonds and notes for the Loudon Road Corridor Improvements Project (CIP 19).

Recommendation

Accept this report and set the attached resolution rescinding and de-authorizing the sum of \$1,440,000 of Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds from the NH Department of Transportation as no longer necessary, and appropriating the sum of \$1,250,000 and the authorization of bonds and notes for the Loudon Road Corridor Improvements Project for a public hearing.

Background

At its meeting on August 8, 2016, City Council considered improvement alternatives for the Loudon Road Corridor Improvements Project (CIP19). Following a public informational meeting on September 7, 2016, and a subsequent public hearing on September 12, 2016, City Council opted to pursue the 4-lane access management alternative which now requires determining an alternative funding source from previous appropriation actions.

Discussion

City Council will recall that several project improvement alternatives to Loudon Road were outlined at the January 11, 2016 meeting. Through discussion, Council requested that staff consider alternatives and potential grant funding sources where the existing 4-lane roadway could be maintained and include crosswalk and sidewalk enhancements, and closure of driveways to promote better access management.

Staff met with representatives of the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) and reviewed the eligibility of a 4-lane access management alternative. Based on the NHDOT

review, retaining and resurfacing the existing 4-lane roadway configuration will have no safety benefit, therefore, the costs associated with that work will not be eligible for HSIP funding. While access management in the form of driveway narrowing and closure has been demonstrated to be a worthwhile safety improvement, NHDOT outlined only a limited number of driveway closures that would meet the HSIP safety improvement requirements for eligibility. HSIP funding would be limited to the work required to close specific driveways.

Staff discussed these findings and the limited opportunity for grant funding at City Council's August 8, 2016 meeting. At that same meeting, Council requested that staff host a public informational meeting and return for a City Council public hearing and action. Following a well-attended public informational meeting on September 7, 2016, and a subsequent public hearing on September 12, 2016, City Council opted to pursue the 4-lane access management alternative which now requires determining an alternative funding source.

Project Scope of Work and Cost

The 4-Lane Access Management Alternative includes cold planning and repaving Loudon Road to its existing 4-lane configuration (5-lanes at major intersections) between Airport Road/Hazen Drive and D'Amante Drive. Crosswalk and sidewalk improvements include replacement of the existing pedestrian signal heads, wider "ladder type" crosswalk pavement markings, and replacement of sidewalk ramps throughout the project area. Select driveways will be closed and/or reduced in width throughout the project area. Total cost of the 4-lane access management project is estimated at \$1,260,000. Project costs will be funded by this appropriation action.

City Council will recall that the Loudon Road Water Main Replacement Project – Phase 2 (CIP85) was completed in 2014. Final trench patch restoration within the work area from East Side Drive/Canterbury Road to Old Loudon Road was deferred to be included in the previously approved 3-lane alternative project. Permanent trench patch restoration will be included in the overall improvement project. Total cost of the permanent trench patch work is estimated at \$350,000. Trench restoration will be funded by previous water improvement project appropriations.

Project Schedule

Based on current condition, several minor pavement repairs will be completed this Fall in anticipation to the upcoming winter season. Final design and coordination with property owners will continue through winter in advance of construction of the 4-lane improvement project in early 2017.

Recommendation

Given the limited amount of grant fund eligibility with the 4-lane access management alternative, and the need to maximize flexibility in modifying driveways along the Loudon Road corridor, staff recommends that the project be completed without HSIP funding. In that, funds reimbursed by NHDOT for design will need to be returned. Total funds reimbursed by NHDOT to date are \$13,891.81. Funds previously appropriated for the project's design will be used to reimburse NHDOT.

Therefore, it is recommended that City Council accept this report and set the attached resolution de-authorizing the sum of \$1,440,000 of Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds from the NH Department of Transportation as no longer necessary, and appropriating the sum of \$1,250,000 and the authorization of bonds and notes for the Loudon Road Corridor Improvements Project for a public hearing.