



# CITY OF CONCORD

## REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Edward L. Roberge, PE, City Engineer

**DATE:** September 30, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Report from the City Engineer outlining lighting alternatives for the Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project (CIP460)

### **Recommendation**

Accept this report outlining street up-lighting alternatives, comments from recent public review of lighting options, and options for City Council consideration.

### **Background**

Staff and the project design team presented lighting concept designs to City Council at its December 8, 2014 meeting. Following the presentation, staff held public design review workshops concluding with a City Council public hearing on January 12, 2015 where public comment was heard. City Council actions supported a base up-lighting program including colored, programmable up-lighting in trees, and special accent lighting in City Plaza, the clock tower at the entrance of Eagle Square, and Dimitri's Tree. Staff indicated that lighting demonstrations would be scheduled and final lighting alternative options would be reviewed before City Council.

### **Discussion**

#### *Lighting Program Alternatives*

Staff evaluated two (2) lighting schemes: tree up-lighting; and special accent lighting in public spaces. Up-lighting options include warm white LED or programmable, multi-colored LED up-lighting in trees along Main Street. Special accent lighting in public spaces includes lighting options in City Plaza (plaza archway, war memorial wall, and Franklin Pierce statue), and the entrance to Eagle Square (clock tower up-lighting, and Dimitri's Tree up-lighting).

City Council will recall that funds previously appropriated include \$100,000 for lighting design and programming, and \$340,000 in lighting installation. At this time, the lighting design contract totals \$58,800, where only \$42,800 is expected to be spent. Funds available for lighting installation from the original appropriation total \$397,200.

Staff reviewed base up-lighting program options with the project team and developed cost proposals as follows:

1. Base up-lighting program with warm white LED up-lighting, and special warm white LED accent lighting in City Plaza (plaza archway, war memorial wall, and Franklin Pierce statue), and Eagle Square (clock tower up-lighting, and Dimitri's Tree up-lighting).

- a. Warm White LED Tree Up-lighting: \$200,000.00
- b. Warm White LED Accent Up-lighting: \$ 90,000.00  
\$290,000.00

2. Base up-lighting program with colored, programmable LED up-lighting, and special warm white LED accent lighting in City Plaza (plaza archway, war memorial wall, and Franklin Pierce statue), and Eagle Square (clock tower up-lighting, and Dimitri's Tree up-lighting).

- a. Colored, programmable LED Tree Up-lighting: \$330,000.00
- b. Warm White LED Accent Up-lighting: \$ 90,000.00  
\$420,000.00

#### *Comments from Demonstrations*

Staff organized two (2) public up-lighting demonstrations on the evening of September 8<sup>th</sup> and September 9<sup>th</sup>; both on North Main Street in the vicinity of the Eagle Hotel Building as well as in City Plaza (see attached up-lighting demonstration photos). The events drew about 40 folks that expressed both interest and excitement in the lighting options. Generally, the colored up-lighting drew most attention and discussion. Preferences verbalized to staff and the project team was generally split, with a slight preference towards supporting the warm white LED up-lighting option. However, when the cost differential between the warm white LED up-lighting and the colored, programmable LED up-lighting was noted to those in attendance, most responded in support of the warm white up-lighting option.

Louis Karno & Company Communications (LKC) developed a brief online survey where 35 folks responded and provided feedback to questions that included topics such as which option was preferred, opinion on brightness of each lighting type, and overall thoughts (see attached lighting demonstration survey results.). For those that participated in the survey, the majority supported the warm white LED option.

#### *Council Actions Requested*

Council is requested to consider the above and select an up-lighting and accent lighting alternative for implementation.

1. Base up-lighting program with warm white LED up-lighting, and special warm white LED accent lighting in City Plaza (plaza archway, war memorial wall, and Franklin Pierce statue), and Eagle Square (clock tower up-lighting, and Dimitri's Tree up-

lighting).

Total cost: \$290,000

2. Base up-lighting program with colored, programmable LED up-lighting, and special warm white LED accent lighting in City Plaza (plaza archway, war memorial wall, and Franklin Pierce statue), and Eagle Square (clock tower up-lighting, and Dimitri's Tree up-lighting).

Total cost: \$420,000

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attachments