



**CITY OF CONCORD**  
*New Hampshire's Main Street™*  
**Community Development Department**

**REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM:** Martha Drukker, Interim City Engineer  
**DATE:** November 21, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** FY23 CIP 31 McKee Square Intersection Improvements- Authorization for the City Manager to submit a grant application to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) as programmed in the FY 23 Capital Improvement Program and Budget (CIP&B).

**Recommendation**

Authorize the City Manager to submit a grant application in the amount \$3,000,000 (\$2,400,000, Federal share and \$600,000 City share) to the NHDOT CMAQ program for intersection improvements as programmed in the FY2023 Capital Improvement Program and Budget.

**Background**

As part of the FY23 CIP&B, the City appropriated \$100,000 to complete a traffic assessment and conceptual design for potential intersection improvement alternatives for McKee Square. The work proposed is to update the 2012 Traffic Study prepared by the Engineering Services Division (see attached March 28, 2012 report to City Council). Final design and permitting, is currently scheduled in the CIP for FY24 construction to follow in FY25.

In September 2022, NHDOT announced the start of the new application cycle for the CMAQ program. 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 maximum federal funds award is capped at \$2,400,000. This program is offered for receipt of applications every 4 years.

On November 1, 2022, the City Manager submitted a letter of interest in the NHDOT CMAQ Program for funding to support the cost of design, permitting, and construction of the McKee Square intersection improvements. The City is now advancing to the next round where a formal application from the City and letter of support from the Council is requested.

Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC) has committed to assisting Staff with the application process (see attached letter of support). After review and a competitive

scoring process against four other regional transportation priorities, the Technical Advisory Committee ranked this project first in the region for inclusion in the 2025-2034 NHDOT Ten Year Plan

If selected, the project will be included in the next State Ten Year Plan. Funding is anticipated to be available for fiscal years 2025 through 2028. Selected projects are expected to be implemented in the same timeframe. The application is due to NHDOT by January 6, 2023 and the City will be notified if their grant application has been accepted in the spring/summer of 2023.

### **Discussion**

Improvements to this intersection have been programmed in the City's CIP for the past 25 years. Geometric intersection improvements are necessary to improve safety for the traveling public, emergency response time for the West Street Fire Station, and access and safety for pedestrian and cyclist travel. Improvements to this intersection would enhance the quality of life for the surrounding neighborhoods and enable the City to bring this intersection into compliance with our adopted Complete Streets Policy and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) federal requirements.

By accepting this report, the Council would authorize the City Manager to submit a formal application seeking up to the maximum amount of grant funding available, \$2.4 million. The Manager would also be directed to submit a required letter of support from the City Council confirming for the grantor that the City Council is "committing to actively engaging and leading the project."