



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Michael S. Bezanson, PE, City Engineer

DATE: August 23, 2023

SUBJECT: Heights Sewer Master Plan Improvements Design Funding

Recommendation:

Accept this report and set for public hearing on October 10, 2023 the attached resolutions which 1) rescind and deauthorize the sum of \$1,900,000 of Sewer Fund supported bonds and notes for CIP 91 Sewer Main Replacement and Rehabilitation which were previously appropriated as part of the FY2024 budget, 2) appropriate the sum of \$1,150,000 of Sewer Fund supported bonds for CIP #91 Sewer Main Rehabilitation and Construction to design sewer main improvements as recommended by the Heights Sewer Master Plan, and 3) appropriate the sum of \$750,000 of Sewer Fund supported bonds and notes for CIP #275 Sewer Pump Station Improvements for the design of improvements to the Steeplegate Mall Pump Station in accordance with the recommendations of the Heights Sewer Master Plan.

Background:

The fiscal year 2023 (FY23) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) appropriated \$160,000 in CIP #648 (Wastewater Master Plan Update) to complete a study of the sewer collection system in the Loudon Road/Manchester Street Sewershed. Specifically, the study reviewed condition and capacity of the Steeplegate Mall Pump Station (Pump Station), as well as sewer mains serving the Heights area. The study was completed in late FY2023.

The Master Plan determined that the Steeplegate Mall Pump Station, as well as certain sewer mains carrying flow into the Pump Station, are operating at capacity. Additionally, the Loudon Road Interceptor, which receives flow from the Pump Station, has limited reserve capacity.

As such, the Master Plan recommended upgrades to the Steeplegate Mall Pump Station, as well as improvements to certain segments of the sewer collection system throughout the Heights. Subject to final design, said improvements are presently estimated to cost approximately \$26.6 million, have been incorporated into the City's current Capital Improvement Program for implementation via CIP #91 and CIP #275 in FY2024, FY2025, and FY2026, respectively.

Issues identified in the Heights Sewer Master Plan, coupled with increased demand for sewer service associated with forthcoming development projects, underscores the need for the City to proceed expeditiously and efficiently with necessary sewer improvements to avoid potential public health concerns, as well as support continued tax base growth and community vitality.

Discussion:

As part of the FY24 Budget, the City Council appropriated \$1,900,000 in CIP #91 (Sewer Main Rehabilitation and Construction) for design of sewer collection system improvements recommend by the Heights Sewer Master Plan. Said appropriation expressly excluded design of proposed Pump Station Improvements, which were carried in CIP #275 the amount of \$750,000 in FY2025.

The Engineering Division of the Community Development Department, working in partnership with the General Services Department and the City's on-call engineering consultant for this project, are prepared to commence design and permitting for the proposed improvements. However, given interconnected relationship between sewer main upgrades and Pump Station improvements, it would behoove the City to proceed with design and permitting of Heights Sewer Master Plan improvements programmed in CIP #91 and CIP #275 simultaneously.

The \$1,900,000 previously appropriated as part of CIP 91 in FY2024 will be sufficient to fund the design of both the sewer collection system improvements (CIP 91) and the Pump Station improvements (CIP 275).

Therefore, in order to move forward with design of the sewer collection system and Pump Station improvements concurrently in FY24, staff recommends that City Council proceed as follows:

- 1) Rescind and deauthorize the \$1.9 million of sewer fund supported bonds previously appropriated as part of the FY2024 budget for CIP 91;
- 2) Appropriate the sum of \$1,150,000 of sewer support bonds and notes for CIP 91 (Sewer Main Rehabilitation and Construction) for design and permitting of sewer main and piping improvements required to implement the Heights Sewer Master Plan; and,
- 3) Appropriate the sum of \$750,000 of sewer support bonds and notes for CIP 275 (Sewer Pump Station Improvements) for design and permitting of improvements to the Steeplegate Mall Pump Station to implement the recommendations of the Heights Sewer Master Plan.

It is important to note that this course of action has no new fiscal impacts for the community or the Sewer Fund. Additionally, if this recommendation is approved, the \$750,000 currently carried in CIP #275 in FY2025 of the CIP will be removed as part of the upcoming FY2025 budget process.