



## CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS Public Works Agenda Communication

**Meeting Date:** 07-06-2021

**Prepared By:** Dennis Carr – City Engineer, Jon Oliphant – Planning and Development Director

**Agenda Item:** Centennial Rec Trail Bid Award

**Explanation:** The Centennial Rec Path is an ITEP selected project that was to initially begin at IL Rt 8 and end on Centennial at School Street. This project was underestimated by previous staff and due to issues during design, has had numerous extensions and scope changes. The last scope change was after the engineer's estimate put the project at over double the ITEP grant. At this point, the project was shortened to what IDOT would consider a "Logical Termini" at Spring Creek Road.

Staff budgeted for \$380,000 based on the Engineer's Estimate, but the low bidder was Otto Baum at nearly \$419,000. The next two bidders were fairly close together near \$480,000. Conversations have been had with Otto Baum and they don't think there is anything to remove from the project that could reduce it to our budgeted cost. A rebid in July might bring other bidders down if they did not receive work on this past state letting.

Staff has been talking with IDOT on a potential alternative of shortening the project to Centennial, which would reduce the cost enough to bring the project in under our budgeted amount. But IDOT does not consider this to be a logical termini, as they don't like the idea of putting the bicycles out solely on Centennial in the curve.

During the discussions with IDOT's Local Road Engineer, the following question regarding future grant scoring was raised: Does IDOT take past use of grant funds into account in grant scoring? The answer was two-fold in that pre-Covid funds were not scored based on past use of funds. However, the scoring of Post-Covid funds will reflect the municipality's use of past funds. He let me know that the project had already put us behind the 8-Ball and that he highly recommended we use the funds. He then said that it's hard for IDOT to understand that we can't afford tens of thousands of additional cost on this project but we can afford to spend millions on Freedom Parkway in the following years.

IDOT then laid out our options as: 1) Rebid in July and hope that prices don't go up with material prices and a lack of labor; or 2) Give the money back. After he laid out the options, he wanted to make sure that we understood that he highly recommended we not give the money back for our sake. Please note that the possibility of awarding the project to Otto Baum is no longer an option because staff previously notified IDOT that we will not accept the bids.

Other future IDOT grants include ITEP, Safe Routes to School, Highway Safety Program, Economic Development Program, and Statewide Planning and Research Program.

**Fiscal Impact:** Staff budgeted for \$380,000 for this project. Any additional funds can be found in the Lawndale Private Project budget because it is currently projecting to come in nearly \$300,000 under budget due to not all homes needing a sump pump. Many Illinois municipalities are also experiencing a significant bump in sales tax revenue as a result of the recent collection of online sales.

**Recommendation/Committee Discussion Summary:** Staff recommends re-bidding the project.

**Action Requested:** Recommendation by PWC to rebid the project.