



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS Public Works Committee Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: July 6, 2021

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Agenda Item: Square ITEP Streetscape Project Phase I Engineering Update

Explanation: The City was awarded about \$56,000 in funds from IDOT in 2018 to complete Phase I engineering. This is the 80% federal share of the original project estimate of \$70,000 with the City responsible for the remaining 20% and any cost overruns. Hutchison Engineering completed the bulk of the work in 2019. The primary remaining item was to have a review of the Square coping wall completed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to determine if any change to its configuration can be done through the use of federal funds. This has been proposed in order to accommodate the necessary turning radii for WB-65 trucks around the Square as well as to ensure the safety of the pedestrians into the areas. It was recently determined that the wall is not historic and does not need to be kept in its current size and shape. This decision allows for future funds to be used towards its reconfiguration, which would be a loss of about 10 percent of the existing greenspace.

Earlier this week, IDOT indicated a need to complete a modified Intersection Design Study (IDS) as a final step as part of PE I. This request was not expected by IDOT when the original engineering agreement with Hutchison was approved. It is highly unlikely that IDOT would grant a design variance to keep the wall in its existing location. Hutchison should be able to complete the IDS by mid-July and it is expected that IDOT will need about a month to finish its review. Assuming there are no modifications needed, Hutchison will then wrap up PE I by completing the Project Development Report (PDR) and submit it to IDOT. IDS approval is tentatively expected by mid-October.

Tazewell County and its contracted engineer, Farnsworth Engineering, is completing Phase I and II engineering to address various Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) projects throughout the county, including the sidewalk on the south side of the Square. Their funding source is lapse revolving loan funds. There is a slight chance this could be completed later this year to allow for some or all of the County's project to have a construction letting. It is not known currently if the County may request a small local match from any municipalities in order to participate in the construction project. This would reduce the eventual total scope of the Square streetscape project, though the County's project can only address ADA improvements and not other upgrades like bumpouts, landscaping, or lighting. Items such as these can likely be added onto the County's project with the City solely being responsible for that cost.

Fiscal Impact: The completion of the IDS and PDR will be the last steps to close out the PE I project. To date, about \$19,200 of the \$56,000 grant remains before it is maximized. The addition of the modified IDS was not included in the original scope but it is anticipated at this point that the grant can cover most, if not all, of the IDS. All local funds are supplied through TIF.

Action Requested: No action is necessary. The completion of PE I and any possible work done towards PE II would better position this project as part of the next ITEP cycle that is expected in the fall of 2022.