



MEMO

TO: President Gardiner and Members of Town Council

FROM: Town Manager

SUBJECT: Main Street Preliminary Engineering and Construction LPA Agreements – INDOT

DATE: March 7, 2022

Background

The Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) is the administrator for State and Federal road funds that are distributed to local and county governments in the Region. These funds are allocated based on the agency's five-year transportation improvement program (TIP).

The Town of Munster has used these funds in the past to assist in the realignment and grade separation of 45th Street, as well as the planned construction of the pedestrian bridge over the Hart and Cady Marsh Ditches.

In 2019 the Town declined \$382,000 in CCMG funds to do a simple mill and overlay of Main Street that would have kept its existing alignment, and instead applied to NIRPC for a complete redesign and reconstruction of the roadway that would accommodate pedestrians and cyclists and more accurately reflect the standards of the community.

In October of 2020, the Town submitted this project to NIRPC for grant funding, and we have been successfully scheduled into the 2021-2025 TIP.

Methodology

The Town has reached out to our neighboring communities that also share the use of Main Street, those being Highland, Schererville, and Dyer to see if they would be interested in collaborating on this redesign and reconstruction.

All have been receptive to the offer. In fact, each community took the time to score the proposals that led Council to identify DLZ as our preferred consultant at our September 2021 meeting.

Project costs are as follows:

	Preliminary Engineering (Phase 1)	Right of Way (Phase 1+2)	Construction (Phase 1)	Construction Engineering (Phase I)	Grand Total
2022 NIRPC	\$ 601,472				\$ 601,472
2022 Local	\$ 150,368				\$ 150,368
2023 NIRPC		\$ 500,000			\$ 500,000
2023 Local		\$ 658,000			\$ 658,000
2025 NIRPC			\$ 5,034,593	TBD	\$ 5,034,593
2025 Local			\$ 1,258,648	TBD	\$ 1,258,648
Total NIRPC	\$ 601,472	\$ 500,000	\$ 5,034,593		\$ 6,136,065
Total Local	\$ 150,368	\$ 658,000	\$ 1,258,648		\$ 2,067,016
Grand Total	\$ 751,840	\$ 1,158,000	\$ 6,293,241		\$ 8,203,081

Of particular interest is the local portion of each project element. The Preliminary Engineering LPA agreement Council is being asked to approve this evening includes figures that do not match the above table. This is because between the time the contracts were prepared by INDOT and now, the Town successfully secured additional funding through NIRPC. The Preliminary Engineering Contract states that we have \$318,000, when in fact we have \$601,472. No action is necessary, as the contract states that INDOT will pay up to 80% of eligible project costs dependent upon current TIP allocations. The above figures are directly from the most recent TIP.

Another successful amendment to the TIP for this project was securing \$500,000 for right of way acquisition. This is due to the fact that the current property lines extend to the middle of the road. We will continue to advocate for additional funds to meet the 80-20 match proportion. In any case, this will require an additional LPA to be considered in the future.

Another element to factor is that there will be a cost-share of the local amount articulated above between the four partner communities. These agreements are currently in process, so estimates cannot be provided at this time.

The redesign and reconstruction of Main Street will be a significant improvement to the Town of Munster and our neighboring jurisdictions.

Recommendation

Authorize the Town Manager to execute Contract #060985 (Preliminary Engineering) and Contract #060986 (Construction) and with the Indiana Department of Transportation in the amount of \$5,636,065.