



To: Council President Gardiner and Members of Council

From: Dustin Anderson – Town Manager

Meeting: May 16, 2022

Re: NICTD Station Betterments and Watermain Relocation

Background

The Town has long collaborated with the Northern Indiana Commuter Transit District (NICTD) to set a vision for the station areas that will be located within Town. Provisions for this collaboration were included in the construction agreement between the Town and NICTD that was adopted in 2019. Generally, the parties agreed that the Town would be able to improve base-level station design if it were to pay for the cost difference.

As engineering of the rail project progressed in 2021, the Town engaged CDM Smith as our own architect and structural engineer to help facilitate the Town's betterment vision for the station areas.

Additionally, the Town has dedicated hundreds of hours to plan review and utility coordination with NICTD and their design-build team.

Through the course of these reviews and conversations, we have identified a 12-inch watermain that we believe needs to be relocated further away from the project area. Public Works has dealt with two breaks on this main in the last 18 months. NICTD is planning to relocate a portion of the main that is in the way of a bridge support foundation in this area. We are concerned with the proximity of several other structures to this main. Both in terms of the disturbance due to construction as well as vibrations due to train operations. Additionally, access for future maintenance will be affected as the current location is quite close to the foundations and elevated track sections making excavation difficult for Public Works crews should a break occur in the future.

There is a legitimate concern that there will be issues with this water main due to the planned construction in this area.

Methodology

Upon receipt of the Town's preferred station area betterments, NICTD and their design-build contractor provided the Town a proposed change order of \$7.4 million. Through a series of conversations between the Town, NICTD, and our respective subject matter experts, we were able to settle on a final price of \$6,007,657.87.

The watermain relocation proposal has been reviewed by staff and we believe the proposed price is commensurate with current bids we have received for our own work. The final price of this watermain relocation is \$397,175.59.

These improvements will be paid out of fund: 471-915-0100-64490000. While there are sufficient funds to cover these costs, an additional appropriation will likely be necessary at some point in the future.

Recommendations

By motion and roll-call vote approve the First Written Commitment and Agreement between the Town of Munster and the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District for a price not to exceed \$6,007,657.87.

By motion and roll-call vote approve the Second Written Commitment and Agreement between the Town of Munster and the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District for a price not to exceed \$397,175.59.