



MEMO

TO: President Koultourides and Members of Council

FROM: Dustin Anderson

SUBJECT: Community Crossing Matching Grant – INDOT

DATE: November 18, 2019

Background

The Indiana Department of Transportation administers a matching grant program called Community Crossings. The Town of Munster has successfully competed for over \$1 million grants for paving our local streets. There are typically two calls for funding each year. Funding is awarded well in advance of the intended construction period. For example, the next call for projects closes in February for 2020 construction season. By the time communities are notified of award and follow the state-mandated bid process, construction may not be able to start until July or August. The award being considered tonight was from an application submitted August 2nd.

The Town submitted two applications to INDOT and was awarded both. Contract #A249-20-LG190889 was to complete Camellia Avenue which has been half-paved after HSD replaced their force main in 2018 as well as Southwood Drive between the newly-finished intersection at 45th and Fran Lin Parkway. The awarded amount is \$171,410.50 and is distributed as follows:

Road Segment	From	To	Award
CAMELLIA DR	Columbia Avenue	Southwood Drive	\$82,010.50
SOUTHWOOD DR	45th Avenue	Fran Lin Parkway	\$89,400.00
			\$171,410.50

The other application was Contract #A249-20-LG190891 to address Main Street from Columbia to the Pennsy Greenway Trail. The awarded amount was \$382,842.00.

Road Segment	From	To	Award
MAIN ST	Columbia Avenue	Pennsy Greenway	\$382,842.00
			\$382,842.00

The combined value of the two grants is \$554,252.50. Because this is a matching grant, this would also be the cost to the Town of Munster.

Methodology

With the likely construction of the Westlake Extension and its terminal station on Main Street, we are anticipating an evolving and perhaps more intense traffic pattern. The current alignment of Main Street may or may not be sufficient.

Additionally, it has been the goal of Town to connect our bike trails and provide safe pedestrian access where none currently exists.

Main Street could evolve into a “complete street”. This is a roadway that is designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists of all ages and abilities. Complete streets make it easy to manage vehicle speed, cross the street, walk to multiple destinations, and bicycle safely.

At a recent quarterly tracking meeting with the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) and INDOT, we learned that there would be a notice of funding availability for the 2025-2030 transportation improvement plan (TIP). Applications to NIRPC to be included in the TIP are due in September of 2020. Projects awarded are typically funded at an 80/20 cost match. This information was not known when we applied for the Community Crossing Grant for Main Street.

If the Town applies successfully to NIRPC, Main Street could be significantly improved in 2025. If we were to resurface Main next construction season that would be two costly construction projects on the same road within five years.

The Town can decline awarded funds from INDOT with no penalty towards future applications. There is no guarantee that we would be successful in our application to NIRPC. Main Street is in poor condition, but it is not failing and can be maintained in the near-to-mid-term.

Recommendation

Approve Contract #A249-20-LG190889 with the Indiana Department of Transportation in the amount of \$171,410.50 to resurface Camellia Drive and Southwood Drive.