



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FORM

MEETING DATE: July 28, 2022

PREPARED BY: Patty Swords

AGENDA CONTENT: Discussion and possible action on a TxDOT grant application for a Bicycle and Pedestrian Shared Paths initiative in the downtown Angleton area.

AGENDA ITEM SECTION: Regular Agenda

BUDGETED AMOUNT: N/A

FUNDS REQUESTED: \$25,000.00

FUND: General

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City of Angleton has been invited to submit a grant application that will result in transformational improvements to downtown Angleton while providing pedestrian and bicycle access to public and private facilities. New 10' wide shared paths on designated streets will connect citizens to City Hall, a Metro bus stop, the County Courthouse and campus, Veterans Park, Masterson Park, multiple Churches, numerous businesses, restaurants, and retail. Bike lanes with a buffer may be used on certain streets due to Right of Way and/or utility considerations.

This is a TxDOT grant opportunity that will fund 80% of a multi-use path system for the downtown area for \$10,000,000.00 to \$25,000,000.00. The City has been encouraged to apply for several reasons: (1) The City and the County own much of the land in the project area, (2) there is space for the paths and/or bike lanes, and (3) a Livable Centers Study has been completed to provide multimodal transportation options, improve environmental quality, and promote economic development in the downtown district of Angleton. This project will address several action items identified in the study, which are included in the Agenda Item packet. Key TxDOT staff is partnering with the City to ensure that our grant application is competitive.

The application package is due October 1, 2022. However, pre-application steps must be completed within the next month, including stakeholder meeting(s), town hall meeting(s), civic group presentation(s), creating an ADA plan for the route, and a landscaping plan.

Due to the need for public input and up-front cost to apply, it is recommended that staff proceed with a phased approach. Phase I will consist of obtaining public input and route evaluation only. The route evaluation will be performed by HDR Engineering at a cost of \$24,000.00 and their work will include detailed site visits and documentation, alignment identification, identification

of additional required improvements, cost estimating, creation of technical exhibits and PowerPoint, Council meeting co-presentation (with City staff), town hall meeting co-presentation, and stakeholder co-presentation. The staff may incur charges for items such as presentation materials, hand-outs, and subject area tours. These miscellaneous expenses will not exceed \$1,000.00.

Phase I of the pre-application work will be completed and ready to present at Council's regular meeting on July 26. At that time, the project team will present its findings to the Council for discussion and approval. A Resolution to proceed with the project will be presented to Council at this meeting.

Without conducting the steps in Phase I, the overall project details are challenging to define, including project costs, right-of-way concerns, and any drainage/utility issues.

If the Council's evaluation of the route analysis and stakeholder input is positive on July 26, staff will recommend moving to Phase II. The second phase will include a preliminary design of the multi-use paths, cost estimating, ADA compliance recommendations, and a streetscaping plan. During Phase II the City will obtain Letters of Support from impacted landowners and/or businesses, State and County elected officials, and staff will present the project plan to Brazoria County Commissioners' Court. A right-of-way survey (for over three linear miles) will need to be performed during this phase. There will be costs associated with these activities, which are currently estimated at between \$50,000.00 to \$75,000.00.

Attached for your review is a list of applicable Livable Center Study action items, a preliminary route map, and a preliminary scope of work.

TxDOT has indicated that if awarded, the City will be notified on or before January 2024. The local matching funds (20% of the total cost) must be available at that time. Note: any expenses incurred by the City prior to the approval of the application are the City's cost alone and will not be considered toward the required match.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of moving forward with Phase I activities to evaluate the Bicycle and Pedestrian Shared Paths initiative in the downtown Angleton area and obtain stakeholder buy-in at a cost of \$25,000.00.