



Memorandum

To: Douglas City Council

From: City Manager

Date: April 20, 2026

Re: Water Street Slope Stabilization Project – Emergency Authorization Request

At the April 20, 2026 City Council meeting, representatives from Prein & Newhof will present the Water Street Slope Stabilization Improvements project. This presentation outlines the recent failure along Water Street and the recommended approach to stabilize the slope and restore the roadway.

As detailed in the attached materials, temporary erosion control measures were installed approximately five to six years ago in response to stormwater runoff impacting the embankment. On April 7, 2026, City staff observed sediment at the base of the slope, indicating active erosion. At that time, the area was monitored closely. However, following significant rainfall on April 15, 2026, conditions deteriorated rapidly, and the east edge of the roadway was undermined, resulting in failure and the need for immediate closure. The progression of damage is clearly illustrated in the images included in the presentation.

The proposed solution, as presented by the City's engineers, includes reconstruction of the slope with permanent stabilization measures. This work involves removing vegetation, reestablishing the slope, installing reinforced erosion control systems, replacing the guardrail, and reconstructing one lane of the roadway. This approach is intended to provide a long-term solution rather than another temporary repair.

The preliminary construction estimate for this project is approximately \$140,000, with a projected timeline that would allow for completion in early July 2026. However, given the emergency nature of the situation and the need to act quickly to protect public safety and prevent further damage, a traditional bidding process is not feasible.

In order to proceed without delay, staff is requesting that City Council authorize funding in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 for the completion of this project. This not-to-exceed

amount provides necessary flexibility to address unforeseen conditions that are common in emergency slope stabilization work.

Staff recommends approval of this request so that the City can move forward immediately with construction. Addressing this issue promptly is critical to ensuring public safety and preventing further deterioration of the roadway and surrounding infrastructure.

Motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$200,000 for the Water Street Slope Stabilization Project and authorize staff to proceed with emergency repairs, including contracting and construction, without a formal bidding process to be taken from the Major Street Fund 202-463.000-979.000,