

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Gunnar Hale, Project Manager
Dana Hornkohl, Capital Projects Manager

SUBJECT

Items Relating to the Laporte Avenue Multimodal Improvement Project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Resolution 2024-097 Authorizing the Execution of an Amendment to An Existing Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, and the Colorado Department of Transportation for the Laporte Avenue Multimodal Improvement Project.

B. First Reading of Ordinance No. 118, 2024, Making Supplemental Appropriations from Grant Revenue and Prior Year Reserves and Authorizing Transfers of Appropriations for the Laporte Avenue Multimodal Improvement Project and Related Art in Public Places.

The purpose of this item is to reappropriate funding from the Laporte Bridges project (“Bridges”) to the Laporte Avenue Multimodal Improvements Project (the “Project”), receive and appropriate Colorado Department of Transportation (“CDOT”) funds, and provide supplemental appropriations to the Project. The CDOT funds will be used for the construction of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (“RRFB”) signal at Laporte Avenue and Impala Drive. If approved this item will: 1) authorize the Mayor to execute an amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement (the “IGA”) for the Project with CDOT; 2) appropriate \$49,500 of Highway Safety Improvement Program (“HSIP”) grant funds to the Project; 3) appropriate \$330,500 from Transportation Capital Expansion Fee (“TCEF”) reserves to the Project; 4) appropriate \$175,000 from Transportation Services Fund reserves to the Project; 5) reappropriate \$517,000 from Bridges to the Project; 6) appropriate \$4,044 (0.8% of TCEF and Transportation Services Project contribution) from TCEF reserves to the Art in Public Places (“APP”) program; 5) appropriate \$1,011 (0.2% of TCEF and Transportation Services Project contribution) for maintenance of art from the Transportation Services Fund Reserves to the APP program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution and Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Laporte Avenue projects are developed in three phases: 1) the Bridges and roadway work between Taft Hill Road and Frey Avenue (Bridges), 2) installation of pedestrian and bicycle side paths between Frey Avenue and Fishback Avenue (East Project), and 3) installation of pedestrian and bicycle side paths between Sunset Street and Taft Hill Road (West Project). The initial Bridges phase of this work was

completed in 2023 and replaced two aging bridges in the corridor. The East Project began earlier this year and is scheduled to be completed later in August. The West Project is scheduled to begin in October once property acquisition is complete.

The project delivery method for the East and West Projects is Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC). The chosen contractor held their proposed pricing for the East Project despite a delay in beginning construction due to property acquisition and CDOT approval. The contractor has demonstrated by providing open book pricing and confirmed by an independent cost estimate that price escalation has impacted many of the materials and costs for the West Project. Construction cost inflation is confirmed by the CDOT Colorado Construction Cost Index (CCI) report showing an annual percentage increase in construction costs of 8.03% (Attachment 5). In addition, the cost to acquire real property for the West Project has been significantly higher than was estimated. Increased acquisition costs result from 1) significant escalation in property values during the process, 2) increased use of settlements to minimize delays in some acquisitions, and 3) increased consulting needs (land appraisal and real estate services) resulting from updated CDOT right-of-way processes. Construction was broken into East and West Projects to accommodate the property acquisition schedule introducing some additional design cost.

During this design effort, the City applied for and was awarded Fiscal Year 2027 HSIP grant funds to install an RRFB for additional pedestrian and bicycle safety within the West Project limits at Impala Drive. CDOT has agreed to provide the funding early so that the RRFB may be included in the construction and has proposed an amendment to the CDOT IGA to increase the total funds from \$1,059,084 by \$509,617 to a new total funds amount of \$1,568,701 and to update the funding provisions exhibit of the IGA. Savings from the Bridges (\$517,000) can be reappropriated to the West Project. Including the local match for the HSIP award, it is estimated that an additional \$560,055 (including \$49,500 in CDOT HSIP funds) is needed to complete construction on the West Project.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The following is a summary of the funding anticipated for design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction for the Laporte Avenue Multimodal Improvement Project.

Prior Appropriated Funds	
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant Funds	\$ 3,250,000
Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Funds (MMOF) Grant	\$ 250,000
Revitalizing Mainstreets (RMS) Grant Funds	\$ 1,437,500
Transportation Capital Expansion Fee (TCEF) Funds	\$ 613,830
Transportation Services Fund Reserves	\$ 1,665
Community Capital Improvement Program (CCIP) Bicycle Program	\$ 122,727
Community Capital Improvement Program (CCIP) Pedestrian Program	\$ 402,273
General Fund Reserves	\$ 225,000
Total Prior Appropriation	\$ 6,302,995

Funds to be Appropriated per this Action	
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Grant Funds	\$ 49,500
Transportation Capital Expansion Fee (TOEF) Funds	\$ 335,454
Transportation Services Fund Reserves	\$ 175,101
Reappropriation from Bridges Project to Multimodal Improvements Project	\$ 517,000
Total Funds to be Appropriated per this Action	\$ 1,077,055
Transfer to Art in Public Places	\$ 5,055
Total Project Funds	\$ 7,380,050

The total fund amount projected for this Project is \$7,380,050 composed of funds appropriated with prior actions and with this action.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed appropriation was brought before the Council Finance Committee at their August 1, 2024, meeting. The committee supported an off-cycle supplemental appropriation and was in favor of forwarding the appropriation request to City Council. At the time, this item was prepared, meeting minutes had not been drafted or approved. Prior to the August 1, 2024, meeting, the Council Finance Committee reviewed the Project on August 11, 2021, and February 23, 2024.

The Project has received full environmental and historical clearances through CDOT during the design, acquisition, and construction phases. The Project was also presented to the Transportation Board as well as the Bicycle Advisory Committee in 2020, both of which support the Project.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Staff has developed and continues to implement a comprehensive Public Engagement Plan for the Project.

As part of the design and acquisition process, staff have discussed the Project with the adjacent property owners and current business owners immediately abutting the Project improvements. In addition, staff and an outside acquisition consultant have met or conversed individually with property owners on multiple occasions regarding design and construction details.

Staff has discussed and presented conceptual level drawings at several public outreach events with an open house in October of 2019, two public meetings held on May 1, 2023, and May 23, 2023, and the Transportation Projects Fairs in February 2023 and February 2024. A project website is regularly updated with Project information and upcoming milestones.

City staff continues to engage with local businesses and property owners impacted by ongoing work and traffic patterns that are affected by construction traffic control needs and requirements.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Exhibit A to Resolution
3. Ordinance for Consideration
4. Laporte Corridor Vicinity Map
5. Construction Cost Inflation