



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA – City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: February 9, 2026

ITEM TITLE: Resolution to Endorse the Grant Application for the 1st Street West - Rebuilding a Major Corridor Project under the US Department of Transportation Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Grant Program

BACKGROUND:

The proposed 1st Street West – Rebuilding a Major Corridor Project will enhance multimodal transportation and improve safety and resilience along the corridor by replacing and upgrading infrastructure nearing the end of its service life.

The project will reconstruct the existing 3-lane roadway to moderate traffic speeds. It also includes a roundabout at the 20th Avenue intersection to accommodate future traffic volumes and improve safety. The signalized intersections at 2nd Avenue and 9th Avenue will be studied to determine whether signal modifications or removals are warranted.

ADA crossings will be provided at all intersections along the corridor. The project will also address existing safety concerns and pedestrian access along the corridor by providing an 8-foot-wide trail and/or a 5-foot-wide sidewalk on both sides of the roadway, with LED lighting for the entire length of the project.

The overhead utility lines running along the corridor are also expected to be moved underground to improve resilience and aesthetics. Storm sewers, sanitary sewers, and water mains are anticipated to be replaced under 1st Street West, including the main water and sanitary sewer lines running underneath the Wapsipinicon River. The proposed stormwater design will alleviate localized flooding and drainage issues by improving conveyance and incorporating bioretention cells and rain gardens at strategic locations along the corridor.

DISCUSSION:

As part of applying for the BUILD Grant, Staff is requesting the Council pass a resolution endorsing the project and committing to a percentage funding level.

The City is applying for the grant based on projected costs for the implementation year. Staff recommends a 10% match. The City's portion of this match will be funded through a combination of sources. This includes the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds already secured through INRCOG, with the remaining balance to come from local funds.

This commitment would be accounted for as we move forward. The local funding portion would be allocated in future years as we proceed to construction, should we be successful in this application.

RESULTS:

The City has established priorities during strategic planning sessions. This item supports the Vision from that session of **supporting and enhancing City infrastructure**. This item helps achieve that vision by working to redevelop a critical area of 1st Street West, replacing aging infrastructure, and improving safety for all modes of travel.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

The funds for this match will come from an already secured Surface Transportation Block Grant from INRCOG, as well as local funds. The total match commitment is set at 10% of the project cost.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution to endorse the 1st Street West - Rebuilding a Major Corridor Project for grant funding.