

**CITY OF MARSHALL
AGENDA ITEM REPORT**

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| Presenter: | Jason Anderson |
| Meeting Date: | Tuesday, March 26, 2024 |
| Category: | NEW BUSINESS |
| Type: | ACTION |
| Subject: | Consider Authorization to Submit Grant Application for Design of Intersection Safety Improvements at TH23 & Tiger Drive |
| Background Information: | <p>In the 2023 Transportation Omnibus bill, a new program entitled Rural High-Risk Roads was developed and \$10M was identified to help fund trunk highway improvements. We believe that these funds could possibly be accessed to take necessary steps toward developing an intersection improvement project at Minnesota Trunk Highway 23 (TH 23) and Tiger Drive.</p> <p>On January 3, 2024, the Marshall Area Transportation Group (MATG) hosted a meeting in our City Council Chambers with numerous stakeholders to discuss safety concerns at this intersection. The meeting was well-attended, and there was good discussion between some local stakeholders and MnDOT District 8 staff. At this meeting, District Engineer Jon Huseby and D8 Traffic Engineer Cody Brand discussed the opportunities and challenges associated with developing an intersection improvement project at this location. During the presentation, MnDOT largely focused on the possibility of implementing a Reduced Conflict Intersection (J-Turn) type of safety improvement at this location due to the low cost and high benefit of this type of improvement. The stakeholders in the room were in support of a safety improvement here and a J-Turn was viewed as an acceptable safety enhancement for this intersection.</p> <p>City staff is looking for City Council support for a grant application to complete necessary steps toward developing a J-Turn project at Tiger Drive/MN 23. We have letters of support from MnDOT, Southwest Minnesota State University, and Marshall Public Schools for this grant application. A successful grant application would include funding to update the existing Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) at Tiger Drive/MN 23, conduct necessary outreach and public input, and work in coordination with MnDOT D8 staff to complete concept level layouts and preliminary project design work.</p> <p>While we do not plan to apply for project construction funding, this preliminary design work will position us very well to follow-up with future funding requests for a construction project. We are estimating this design work to cost \$400,000, and we intend to request for the entire amount in grant funding.</p> <p>The grant application is included in the Council packet for review.</p> |
| Fiscal Impact: | Engineering and public outreach costs are estimated at \$400,000. Staff proposes to request a fully-funded grant with no local cost impact at this time. |
| Alternative/Variations: | No alternative actions recommended. |
| Recommendations: | that the Council authorize City staff to submit an application for Rural High-Risk Roads (RHRR) grant funding for intersection safety improvements at TH 23 and Tiger Drive. |