



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Approval of Grant Agreement for ARPA funds

Preferred Agenda: April 26, 2022

Submitted By: Brandon Neish, Finance Director

Reviewed By: Christy Wurster, City Manager Pro Tem

Type of Action: Resolution ____ Motion X Roll Call ____ Other ____

Relevant Code/Policy: N/A

Towards Council Goal: Goal 3.2: Look for methods to improve community safety, Police, Community Design, etc.

Attachments: Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund Grant Agreement

Purpose of this RCA:

To review a grant agreement allowing the City of Sweet Home to collect \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to be spent on the 22nd Avenue crosswalk.

Background/Context:

During the City Council meeting on October 26, 2021, the City Council voted to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) regarding the US 20 / OR 228 ADA Curb Ramps which included the installation of pedestrian crossing improvements at the intersection of Main Street (US 20) and 22nd Ave. Funding for the inclusion of a pedestrian crossing was pursued by Councilor Sanchez and graciously distributed to Sweet Home by State Representative Cate and Senator Girod through legislative ARPA allocations. Staff recently received the grant agreement to receive the funds which needs to be reviewed and approved by the City Council.

The Challenge/Problem:

Should the City accept the ARPA funds to be used to enhance safety at the intersection of 22nd Avenue and Main Street?

Stakeholders:

- Sweet Home City Council – The City Council has long identified 22nd Ave as a safety concern for those who attempt to cross Highway 20 (Main Street).
- Sweet Home Residents and Visitors – Residents deserve pedestrian crossings that are safe for both pedestrians and motorists.
- Sweet Home Staff – Staff work to address residents' concerns and meet Council goals.
- ODOT – ODOT has jurisdiction over any improvements made within the US 20 right-of-way.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

Without outside funding, the City has not identified resources to construct a pedestrian crossing that meets ODOT's requirements across a state highway.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

A stable solution includes an approved agreement with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to accept ARPA funds for the pedestrian crossing at 22nd and Main.

Options:

1. Do nothing – The agreement will not be signed and the City will not be able to accept the ARPA dollars allocated by the City's representatives in the Oregon Legislature. The pedestrian crossing will also not be constructed without allocated funds.
2. Approve the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Grant Agreement and authorize the City Manager Pro Tem to sign the agreement – Approving the agreement will allow the distribution of funds to proceed and ODOT can begin construction of a pedestrian crossing.
3. Propose an alternative solution – Other options are available when it comes to financing the pedestrian crossing at 22nd Ave and Main Street. The Council could choose to fund within existing City funds (requires a supplemental budget) or could seek to amend the grant agreement with DAS.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends option 2, approve the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Grant Agreement and authorize the City Manager Pro Tem to sign the agreement. This solution ensures the project continues without delay.