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OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

TO: Planning and Public Works Committee

Date: 6/21/2022

RE: Woodsmill Sidewalk – Project Cost Share

As previously advised, the City and the Parkway School District are being asked to consider cost-sharing with St. Louis County for the construction of a sidewalk along the west side of Woodsmill Road between Olive Boulevard and Ladue Road. Since the project is not currently funded, there are no concept drawings or detail drawings at this time. The issue at hand, is simply to determine whether the City and Parkway would be willing to participate in the project cost, in the combined amount of \$1 million.

At the request of Senator Jill Schupp, I was asked to attend a meeting at the Parkway Administration building regarding the construction of a new sidewalk along Woodsmill, south of its intersection with Olive Blvd. Senator Schupp explained that she had recently met with St. Louis County regarding the need for the sidewalk. St. Louis County officials provided an estimated cost for the project, \$2.1 million. According to their prioritization protocols, this project was ranked 69th on their priority list.

Senator Schupp indicated that County officials had advised her that a project's priority was calculated based on need\cost, and therefore, could be "bought-up" by third-party project sponsors\participants sharing the cost. Specifically, she indicated that the Woodsmill sidewalk project could be accelerated if "others" would commit \$1 million of the project funding. If that were the case, County would immediately place the project on their project list for design, easement acquisition and subsequent construction. Realistically, the project would be completed in five years or less. Upon completion, St. Louis County would own and be responsible for the improvements, no additional or future financial burden for Chesterfield or Parkway. I would be remiss if I didn't advise that I expect that some condemnation would be required from adjacent residents for this project. If the County undertakes this project, the City of

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Chesterfield would not be involved in the project management or related condemnation actions.

Senator Schupp was hoping that the City of Chesterfield and the Parkway School District would be collectively willing to contribute to the project, potentially contributing \$500k each.

Parkway officials were quite interested and after hearing my initial response that the City was unlikely to participate, asked whether or not Chesterfield would be willing to consider a 1/3rd contribution (\$333,333). Hence, the pending question/issue before you.

Subsequently, I contacted St. Louis County transportation officials and inquired as to when any financial contribution would have to be deposited. Understanding that the project doesn't currently exist and no project timetable has been developed, any response would be an estimate. However, if the City and Parkway were willing to participate, the very earliest that any significant effort would be expended would be 2023. County officials advised that their first effort would be to see if the project could be approved for grant funding, which would in turn reduce all participant's cost share and impact the schedule.

I further inquired, if the City and County were to participate financially, whether the County would consider perhaps three equal annual payments in lieu of a single lump sum. They indicated that if a project funding agreement was approved, they would likely be amenable to a sequence of contributions.

As such, in order to officially respond to Parkway and County, I require direction from City Council relative to the City's financial participation for the Woodsmill sidewalk project. I request that the Planning and Public Works Committee consider this request and forward a recommendation to the full Council relative to the City's willingness to fund up to \$333,333 of the project costs. If the City were to participate, I would expect that the city's share would be funded from the Capital Projects Fund, not the General Fund. Please know that no financial obligation is requested at this time, simply an expression of intent from City Council to do so in the future. If Council receives this information favorably, I will coordinate with the Parkway School District and St. Louis County, to initiate project discussions and a funding agreement which will later be acted on by City Council.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.