

# Memorandum

## Department of Public Works



**TO:** Michael O. Geisel, P.E.  
City Administrator

**FROM:** James A. Eckrich, P.E. *JAE*  
Public Works Dir. / City Engineer

**DATE:** June 28, 2021

**RE:** Wilson Avenue

On June 10, 2021 the Planning and Public Works (PPW) Committee considered how to proceed regarding Wilson Avenue. As discussed at that time, earlier in 2021 the City of Chesterfield submitted a grant application for the reconstruction of Wilson Avenue from Wild Horse Creek Road to the recently reconstructed culvert. That grant application included a funding request of \$2,970,000, with a total project cost of \$4,251,000. The City of Chesterfield was notified on May 17, 2021 that its grant submittal was not recommended for funding in 2021, as it did not meet the cost / benefit threshold established by East West Gateway.

As detailed in my May 25, 2021 memorandum, it is clear that in order to qualify for future grant funding, the City will have to limit and better define the scope of the project in order to reduce costs. Additionally, the City will have to consider increasing the local match, which was previously submitted at thirty percent. The PPW determined that the optimal way to do this would be to set the project limits from Wild Horse Creek Road to just south of the S Curve. Establishment of the project limits in this manner is beneficial in a number of ways. Specifically:

- It addresses the deficiencies at the Wild Horse Creek Road intersection, which nearly everyone agrees needs improvement.
- It includes the replacement of the failing culvert within the S curve.
- It reduces the length of the project from 3,000 feet to 1,400 feet.
- It stops well short of the potential tie-in at Baxter Crossing Lane, which was the most controversial part of the previous grant submittal.

The new grant application would include a new asphalt roadway section with appropriately sized lanes and paved shoulders. A shared use path for cyclists and pedestrians would also be included. The shared use path would be separated from the road wherever practical based upon available right of way and geometric / topographic restrictions. Wilson Avenue would be re-aligned through the S Curve at

a horizontal curvature that meets roadway standards and the project would include reconstruction of the failing stormwater culvert. Drainage would be accommodated via roadside ditches and curb/gutter where necessary.

At the June 10, 2021 PPW meeting I explained that in order to successfully acquire a grant, the City will need to complete preliminary design of the improvements in order to obtain a more detailed construction cost estimate. The PPW Committee accepted this and directed Staff to obtain a cost estimate for engineering design for the above-described improvements. I have spoken to a reputable engineering firm familiar with the project, and received a design cost estimate of \$320,000. Please note that this is an estimate only, and an actual cost can only be acquired through a detailed negotiation of scope and fee.

After considering the debate at the June 10, 2021 PPW meeting and further analyzing Wilson Avenue, **it is my recommendation that the City of Chesterfield City Council allocate \$320,000 for engineering services associated with Wilson Avenue. This will fund roadway design plans, project specifications, a construction cost estimate, and any additional services necessary to allow City Staff to submit a grant application in early 2022.** The details of that grant application, including scope and costs, would be submitted to the PPW Committee for review and approval in early 2022.

### **Action Recommended**

This matter should be forwarded to the Planning and Public Works Committee for consideration. Should PPW concur with my recommendation, it should positively recommend to the full City Council a supplemental funding in the Capital Projects Fund of \$320,000 for engineering design services. Should PPW prefer an alternate course of action, it should direct City Staff as to how to proceed regarding Wilson Avenue.

Please forward to PPW for review and recommendation, with the understanding that a budget transfer from the General Fund - Fund Reserve will be necessary to contract for the proposed design contract.

 2021-6-29