

Item

East Richards Street Sidewalk TAP Grant Award Acceptance

Responsible Staff Contact

Clara Chaffin

Recommendations

Recommend accepting the \$200,000 modified grant funding for engineering and design.

Executive Summary

An application for sidewalk and pedestrian safety was submitted to WYDOT via the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) on July 7, 2022. The committee reviewed 35 applications, of which, only 17 were partially or fully funded. Most of the larger projects, such as the City's, that had a lot of design, engineering, and property owner communication (i.e., "front-end" work) only received funding for that portion. The committee felt that this funding gave communities the opportunity to present a shovel-ready project in the next round of TAP funding.

While the City's application did not request funding for design and engineering, the committee felt the proposed project was important enough to support.

Accepting the design funding will not negatively impact any future TAP requests for construction.

To move forward, the City needs to accept the award.

Background

Improving the East Richards Street entryway to our community has been a goal of the City for many years. The desire was first outlined in the 2014 Master Plan and has been identified in all subsequent Strategic Plans. In FY2021, the City Engineer performed a Richards Street Pedestrian Study as a first step towards applying for a TAP Grant (Transportation Alternatives Program). The study outlines a need for non-vehicular safe transportation along the commercial corridor of East Richards Street.

The Richards Street Pedestrian Safety project has a primary goal of providing a safe route for pedestrians and other non-motorized transportation options to access businesses, services, and entertainment opportunities along the commercial length of East Richards Street. Currently, there are very few safe spaces along the corridor for pedestrians to use forcing them into the street or into the drainage ditch. Along with essentially no sidewalks, there are dozens of vehicular cuts for pedestrians to try to navigate quickly as vehicles are maneuvering in and out of individual sites. The primary goal of the project is safety.

The project would install a concrete pathway along the north side of the street from South 5th Street all the way to Mesa Drive.

As an added benefit, this project will provide a long-desired connection between East Richards Street and West Richards Street by providing a continuous safe pathway from the



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2018/2019 Other Side of the Tracks TAP Grant project all the way to the far side of the East Richards business district.

The City would like to complete the project in one phase but is open to multiple phases if necessary.

In March 2022, staff submitted the Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) outlining the details of the project and intent to apply for a grant.

A mandatory site visit was performed in April 2022 with WYDOT, CEPI, and Staff.

Applications are encouraged to be submitted before the end of June 2022 to receive review and comments prior to final submittals which are due on July 15, 2022.

Alignment to Strategic Goals and/or Other Plans

Strategic Plan : Envision and Invest in a Well-Planned Attractive Community: Continue to invest in entryway corridors, and overall beautification, including East Richards Street corridor; improving walkability.

2014 Master Plan :

- B. Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation. Develop a system of sidewalks, pathways, and trails that improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity.
- Goal B1. Provide for a safe, connected sidewalk and bicycle network throughout the City.
- Goal D4. Create attractive, cohesive entryways to the City of Douglas. Entryways include 4th Street, East Richards Street, Center Street and West Yellowstone Highway.

2015 Downtown Master Plan : N/A

Budget/Fiscal Impact

Fund/Department	Capital Projects - Street Improvements
Project/Line Item(s)	Richard St. Improvements S 5 th to S 8 th Phase 1 Engineering/Miscellaneous Contractual Services
Budgeted Amount	\$144,000.00
Anticipated Amount	\$19,020.00

Action Requested /Recommended Motion

Recommend accepting the \$200,000 modified grant funding for engineering and design.

Reviewed/Approved

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Works |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legal |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Administrator | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance |