THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: May 24, 2022

Subject: I-26 Connector Project City Betterments and Aesthetic Treatments

Staff Resource(s): Ken Putnam, PE, Transportation Department Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign a funding letter of commitment to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) regarding the city betterments and aesthetics treatments for Project I-2513AC.

Background:

- Project I-2513 is currently listed in the NCDOT 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) at a total estimated project cost of $1,348,880,000.
- Project I-2413 is commonly referred to as the I-26 connector project beginning at I-40 and ending at US 19-23 near Broadway Street for a total length of 4.7 miles.
- The scope of work includes constructing a multi-lane freeway partly on new location.
- Project I-2513AC from a point north of I-40 to a point south of SR 3548 (Haywood Road) is the first section to be constructed with the right-of-way phase beginning during August 2022 and the construction phase beginning during February 2024.
- In order to maintain the project schedule, NCDOT needs a funding letter of commitment from the city by June 2022.
- According to State law, the reimbursement procedure begins on the date the construction phase begins and the city has a period of not less than three years to reimburse NCDOT the agreed upon costs (interest free). Based on this information, the Legal Department has confirmed that a budget amendment is not needed at this time.
- The funding letter of commitment is needed to proceed with finalizing the design phase.
- City Council appointed an Aesthetics Committee in 2018 to advise the city regarding recommendations for aesthetic improvements to the I-26 Connector project.
- The Aesthetics Committee has worked faithfully and diligently during the past four years in reviewing and suggesting various aesthetic treatments that would enhance the overall experience of the I-26 Connector corridor for all users.
- For purposes of this report, a city betterment is defined as a bicycle, pedestrian, or public transportation improvement that exceeds NCDOT's standard improvements and an aesthetic treatment is defined as any treatment including aesthetic materials, landscaping, and lighting that exceeds NCDOT's standard treatments.

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility

Committee(s):

- Multi Modal Transportation Commission - April 27, 2022 - Approved unanimously

Pro(s):

- Enhances the overall experience of the I-26 corridor for all users.
- Enhances the pedestrian and bicycle experience along the multi-use transportation paths and sidewalks along the side streets.

Con(s):

- Cost sharing fiscal impact to the city.

Fiscal Impact:

- The anticipated total cost to the city is $657,304 and is itemized as follows:

1. City betterments - $320,100 (currently planned in the five-year capital improvement program (CIP) budget).
2. Aesthetic treatments - $337,204 (not programmed at this time).

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign a funding letter of commitment to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) regarding the city betterments and aesthetics treatments for Project I-2513AC.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution
- Aesthetics Committee Funding Request Report

RESOLUTION NO. 22-_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A FUNDING LETTER OF COMMITMENT TO THE N.C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION (NCDOT) REGARDING THE CITY BETTERMENTS AND AESTHETICS TREATMENTS FOR PROJECT I-2513AC

WHEREAS, Project I-2513 is currently listed in the NCDOT 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) at a total estimated project cost of $1,348,880,000; and

WHEREAS, Project I-2413 is commonly referred to as the I-26 connector project beginning at I-40 and ending at US 19-23 near Broadway Street for a total length of 4.7 miles; and

WHEREAS, the scope of work includes constructing a multi-lane freeway partly on new location; and

WHEREAS, City Council appointed an Aesthetics Committee in 2018 to advise the city regarding recommendations for aesthetic improvements to the I-26 Connector project; and

WHEREAS, The Aesthetics Committee has worked faithfully and diligently during the past four years in reviewing and suggesting various aesthetic treatments that would enhance the overall experience of the I-26 Connector corridor for all users; and

WHEREAS, Project I-2513AC beginning at a point north of I-40 and ending at a point south of SR 3548 (Haywood Road) is the first section to be constructed with the right-of-way phase beginning during August 2022 and the construction phase beginning during February 2024; and

WHEREAS, the total anticipated cost for the City betterments and aesthetic treatments for Project I-2513AC is $657,304; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign a funding letter of commitment to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) regarding the city betterments and aesthetics treatments for Project I-2513AC.

Read, approved and adopted this 24th day of May, 2022.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney