



March 14, 2022

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council
City of Warrensburg, Missouri

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

SUBJECT: Ordinance authorizing the city manager and city to execute an agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. for grant funding services.

BACKGROUND

The Maguire Street corridor and Maguire Street/50 interchange have been areas of concerns for the community for several years. Studies have been conducted to assess existing traffic conditions on Maguire Street corridor. The Maguire Street Phase 1A study (2016) recommended replacing the existing bridge with a diverging diamond. However, a funding source to make the recommended improvements was not identified at the time. In 2017, voters approved the issuance of general obligation bonds paid for with a property tax to construct Veterans Road and traffic signal upgrades. The idea behind moving forward with the traffic signal upgrades was to see if it would relieve the congestion on Maguire. However, while there has been some improvement to traffic flow on Maguire with the signal upgrades, actual relief on Maguire cannot be realized until the capacity of the corridor is increased.

City Council continued its discussion of finding a funding source for the Maguire Street/50 interchange including issuing more general obligation bonds when the original measure passed in 2017 expired. Authorization for these bonds would allow the city to be considered for federal grants that require a local government match of 40-60%. City Council passed an ordinance in January 2021 calling for an election on April 6, 2021 to authorize \$17 million in general obligation bonds for street and road improvements. The initiative passed with nearly 79% approval.

A notice of funding opportunity was issued on April 13, 2021 for the FY 2021 Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. Projects for the RAISE grant were evaluated on safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, innovation, and partnership. The City executed a contract with HDR Engineering for grant funding services to assist in the application.

ISSUES

The City was not awarded the RAISE grant in 2021. However, feedback from the US Department of Transportation was favorable. There were 763 applications received. Applications are rated Unacceptable, Acceptable, Recommended, or Highly Recommended, and the Maguire Street Gateway project was rated Recommended. There were two areas the reviewers noted could be strengthened: 1) addressing safety concerns regarding the additional through lanes adding capacity on Maguire, and 2) demonstrating a clear, direct and significant local and regional impact. We were commended for our environmental and sustainability area and partnership and community outreach and community engagement. There are two additional

criteria being added to the 2022 review process, and the reviewers agreed the application already strongly addresses these two criteria—mobility and community connectivity (10' side path for walkers, bikers and people with disabilities) and freight mobility. Additionally, changes were made to the Benefit-Cost-Analysis (BCA).

The 2022 RAISE grant program includes an additional \$500 million for projects for a total of \$1.5 billion. Staff asked HDR to prepare a scope of work to address the areas that need to be strengthened as well as updating the BCA. The fee for HDR to assist in the reapplication of for the 2022 RAISE grant program is not to exceed \$40,000. It is the recommendation of staff to reapply.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Focus I: Investment in infrastructure

Focus II: Growth and development

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY 2022 budget does not include an allocation for additional grant funding services. However, staff recommends approving this agreement for \$40,000. Proceeds remaining from the 2017 G.O. bond issuance will be used to pay for these services.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve ordinance.

Sincerely,

Danielle Dulin
City Manager

- Attachments: 1. Ordinance
2. HDR scope