

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public & Industrial Improvements Committee

November 6, 2017

Members: Jeff Iula, Chair
Adam Miller
Mary Nichols-Rhodes

Mr. Iula called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the July 24, 2017 and September 5, 2017 Public Improvements Committee meetings were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. B-88

Temp. Ord. B-89

Temp. Ord. B-90

Temp. Ord. B-91

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-88

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to apply for Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds programmed by the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) to improve the Portage Trail Extension West Corridor, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, stated that on October 26th of this year, the City applied to AMATS for funding of a proposed improvement to Portage Trail Extension West from State Road to Albertson Parkway. In June, they submitted the same project for funding through a different funding category of AMATS called CMAQ, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality. Unfortunately, it did not get funded through that program; however, AMATS does have another round of funding using STBG, which is the Surface Transportation Block Grant, funding allocated from the Federal government to the State and back down to the locals. As done in the past, they submit the application and allow some time for the legislation. In this case, they have until December 1st for the legislation. Portage Trail Extension West is two-lane highway that carries 18,500 vehicles a day, which is quite a bit for a two-lane road with no turn lanes. The proposed improvements include widening of the roadway and adding a center two-way left turn lane, which will improve the operational and safety deficiencies that currently exist along the corridor. In addition, this project will include construction of sidewalks to improve pedestrian mobility in the project area.

Mr. Iula stated that there have been a lot of small accidents coming out between the Get-Go gas station and Cedar Hill. Hopefully, this will remedy a lot the accidents in those two areas. This project probably won't happen until 2023.

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Mrs. Pyke asked if the funding was based on points. Mr. Demasi stated that it was. The scoring criteria for this type of funding considers the pavement condition and safety issues. As discussed before, right now, there are accidents with people making left turns. They believe the project will reduce delays in the daily traffic in this area. Other criteria considered are project readiness, how long project plans are, whether that includes components of complete streets, which include bicycle facilities, pedestrian facilities and things of that nature, and equitable distribution of funds. That's a measure of how successful the City has been in the past in getting Federal funding allocations. Mrs. Pyke stated that with amount of traffic on this road and the danger for people coming out on the streets at Get-Go, she can't imagine that this project wouldn't score high. She thinks this is a very good project to be applying for this grant.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-88 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-89

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to apply for Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds programmed by the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), for the resurfacing of Riverview Road between Bath Road and the north corporation line, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi stated that also on October 26th, the City submitted three resurfacing projects for grants, the first one being Riverview Road, from Bath Road to the north corporation line. This road carries, on average, about 3,600 cars a day. It's a minor arterial, so it's eligible for resurfacing monies. It has a PCR rating of 58, which is low. It has not been paved since it came into the City, so it was built very well by the County at one time and hasn't needed to be resurfaced, but will need to be soon. Since 2008, the City has been very successful with the Resurfacing Program with AMATS. The Federal share has been over \$3.5 million for resurfacing of the roads. Those are roads that the City wouldn't have gotten done without the help of that program. They are very hopeful that this will get scored very high, as well. This is very similar to the next two projects, which is West Steels Corner Road, Phase II, and, also, Chestnut Boulevard.

Mr. Iula asked how far it was from Bath Road to the north corporation line. Mr. Demasi stated that it is 3.1 miles. Mr. Iona asked if there was a timeline for when the project is going to start. Mr. Demasi stated that it will also be 2023; however, they can design these resurfacing projects much quicker than they can a standard road-widening project. If a project slips from another community and this one is ready to go, they will slide in and go. Mr. Iona asked if both projects could possibly be done sooner. Mr. Demasi stated that the Portage Trail Extension West project will not, because there is a lot of environmental and purchase of rights-of-way that must be done.

Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-89 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed (3-0).

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Temp. Ord. B-90

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to apply for Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds programmed by the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), for the resurfacing of West Steels Corners Road Phase II, between Northampton Road and Akron-Peninsula Road, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Iula stated that this project is very similar to the Riverview Road project. Mr. Iona asked what the timeline was on this project. Mr. Demasi stated that these projects are all slated for 2023.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-90 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-91

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to apply for Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds programmed by the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), for the resurfacing of Chestnut Boulevard between State Road and 2nd Street, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Pyke asked how many cars a day travel on Chestnut Boulevard. Mr. Demasi stated that there are, on average, 3,785 cars.

Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-91 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.