

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council**  
**Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting**

**October 23, 2023**

**Members:** Mary Nichols-Rhodes, Chair  
Mike Brillhart  
Adam Miller

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. All members were present.

**Legislation Discussed**

Temp. Ord. B-118

Temp. Ord. B-119

Temp. Ord. B-120

Temp. Ord. B-122

**Discussion:**

**Temp. Ord. B-118**

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 State Road Phase II Corridor, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, presented Temporary Ordinance B-118 to Council. The completion of the improvement on the State Road Phase II Corridor is important to the City of Cuyahoga Falls in order to improve safety and mobility. This need to improve safety and mobility is vital to improve the quality of life for the citizens and motoring public by reducing emissions, and improving the overall safety and well-being of the citizens and visitors of the City of Cuyahoga Falls. The State Road Phase II Corridor is in need of operational improvements, currently identified as the construction of new curbs, turn lanes and signals where warranted and a multi-use path on State Road.

The Director of Public Service will be authorized to apply for Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Funds programmed by the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), for State Road Phase II Improvements, from Quick Road to Seasons Road.

Council's authorization will be granted with the following understandings:

- A. The City will bear one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of preliminary engineering.
- B. The City will bear one hundred percent (100%) of the total cost of those features requested by the City that are not eligible for Federal participation.
- C. The Federal share will assume eighty percent (80%) of the construction cost of the improvement not to exceed \$6,000,000. The City will be responsible for the local share.

**Finance and Appropriations**  
**October 23, 2023 – Page 2**

D. The City of Cuyahoga Falls is in receipt of and acknowledges the applicability of the AMATS “Funding Policy Guidelines” to this funding request.

Mr. Demasi stated that, on November 3, AMATS will accept applications for STBG projects. Eligible projects for this round of funding are roadway improvement projects. This type of funding is available every two years through AMATS. For this round, they are proposing to submit a grant funding application for State Road from Quick Road to Seasons Road. Total commitment is \$15 million. The maximum to be applied for is \$6 million, so, if they are successful, they will be looking for other available grants. Construction will begin around 2028 and be complete in 2029.

Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-118 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed (3-0).

**Temp. Ord. B-119**

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 Munroe Falls Avenue, between Bailey Road and the eastern corporation line, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, presented Temporary Ordinance B-119 to Council. The City Engineer has identified the need for and proposes the resurfacing of Munroe Falls Avenue between Bailey Road and the eastern corporation limits. The Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) is conducting a competitive grant process under which Federal Surface Transportation Funds may be made available to partially support construction costs for City-sponsored projects.

The Director of Public Service will be authorized to apply for and accept financial assistance in the form of a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, through the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), for the purpose of supporting construction costs related to the Project, Munroe Falls Avenue Resurfacing from Bailey Road to the Eastern Corporation Limits, approximately 5,300-feet; resurface roadway including grind and pave three-inches (3”) of asphalt pavement, restripe pavement markings and replace traffic loops.

Council’s authorization will be granted with the following understandings:

- A. The City will bear one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of preliminary engineering.
- B. The City will bear one hundred percent (100%) of the total cost of those features requested by the City which are not eligible for Federal participation.
- C. The Federal share will assume eighty percent (80%) of the construction cost of the improvement not to exceed \$800,000. The City will be responsible for the local share.
- D. The City of Cuyahoga Falls is in receipt of and acknowledges the applicability of the AMATS “Funding Policy Guidelines” to this funding request.

**Finance and Appropriations**  
**October 23, 2023 – Page 3**

E. The Director of Finance will be authorized and directed to make payment for same from the Capital Projects Fund.

Mr. Demasi stated that also on November 3, AMATS will accept grant applications for road resurfacing. They will be applying for funds to support the resurfacing of Munroe Falls Avenue from Bailey Road to the east corporation line. This project will be done in 2028. The estimate is \$600,000, and AMATS will pay, through this funding, 80 percent, so the City's share would be about \$120,000.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that the City's portion would come from the Capital Projects Fund.

Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-119 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed (3-0).

**Temp. Ord. B-120**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to apply for Federal Carbon Reduction Grant (CRP) funds programmed by the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) for the Akron-Peninsula Road Multi-Use Trail, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, presented Temporary Ordinance B-120 to Council. The completion of the improvement on the Akron-Peninsula Road is important to the City of Cuyahoga Falls in order to improve safety and mobility. This need to improve safety and mobility is vital to improve the quality of life for the citizens and motoring public by reducing emissions, and improving the overall safety and well-being of the citizens and visitors of the City of Cuyahoga Falls. Akron-Peninsula Road is in need of operational improvements, currently identified as the construction of a multi-use trail.

The Director of Public Service will be authorized to apply for Federal Carbon Reduction Grant (CRP) Funds programmed by the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), for the Akron-Peninsula Road multi-use trail.

This Council's authorization will be granted with the following understandings:

- A. The City will bear one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of preliminary engineering.
- B. The City will bear one hundred percent (100%) of the total cost of those features requested by the City that are not eligible for Federal participation.
- C. The Federal share will assume eighty percent (80%) of the construction cost of the improvement not to exceed \$2,000,000. The City will be responsible for the local share.
- D. The City of Cuyahoga Falls is in receipt of and acknowledges the applicability of the AMATS "Funding Policy Guidelines" to this funding request.

Mr. Demasi stated that the City of Akron and City of Cuyahoga Falls have been in discussions for a little over a year for the possibility of a multi-use trail along Akron-Peninsula Road. The trail would begin at the River Woods development in Akron and extend south-southeast to West Portage

**Finance and Appropriations**  
**October 23, 2023 – Page 4**

Trail. AMATS has a couple of opportunities to fund this. On November 3, AMATS will receive funding applications. One is the Carbon Reduction Program that provides funds for projects designed to reduce emissions, including carbon dioxide. Sixty-five percent of this trail is in Cuyahoga Falls and thirty-five percent is located in Akron. The project will be designed by Akron's team with Cuyahoga Falls's support. Construction can begin as early as 2028. The total project estimate is about \$1.1 million and the grant would pay 80 percent of that. Akron and Cuyahoga Falls would share the remaining local share of the project.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that these are all competitive grants and they should find out early in 2024 whether or not they are going to receive them.

Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-120 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed (3-0).

**Temp. Ord. B-121**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the City of Akron, Ohio, to share the cost of engineering and construction for the Akron-Peninsula Road Multi-Use Trail, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, presented Temporary Ordinance B-121 to Council. It is necessary to have a cooperation agreement between the cities of Cuyahoga Falls and Akron to make application for Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) Federal Transportation Alternatives Set Aside and Carbon Reduction Grant Funds for the Akron-Peninsula Road multi-use trail. It is necessary to share the cost of the Akron-Peninsula Road multi-use trail between the City of Cuyahoga Falls and the City of Akron.

The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement with the City of Akron to share the cost of engineering and construction for the Akron-Peninsula Road multi-use trail. The Director of Finance will be authorized and directed to make payment from the Capital Projects Fund.

Mr. Demasi stated that this is the cooperative agreement they are negotiating with Akron for the financial obligation for engineering and construction management of the project. Several of the roads in the Valley have been paved this year with the cooperative agreement between Akron and Cuyahoga Falls, so they are familiar with this process.

Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-121 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed (3-0).

**Temp. Ord. B-122**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to apply for Federal Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TASA) funds programmed by the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) for the Akron-Peninsula Road Multi-Use Trail, and declaring an emergency.

**Finance and Appropriations**  
**October 23, 2023 – Page 5**

Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, presented Temporary Ordinance B-122 to Council. The completion of the improvement on the Akron-Peninsula Road is important to the City of Cuyahoga Falls in order to improve safety and mobility. This need to improve safety and mobility is vital to improve the quality of life for the citizens and motoring public by reducing emissions, and improving the overall safety and well-being of the citizens and visitors of the City of Cuyahoga Falls. Akron-Peninsula Road is in need of operational improvements, currently identified as the construction of a multi-use trail.

The Director of Public Service will be authorized to apply for Federal Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TASA) Funds programmed by the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), for the Akron-Peninsula Road multi-use trail.

Council's authorization will be granted with the following understandings:

- A. The City will bear one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of preliminary engineering.
- B. The City will bear one hundred percent (100%) of the total cost of those features requested by the City that are not eligible for Federal participation.
- C. The Federal share will assume eighty percent (80%) of the construction cost of the improvement not to exceed \$1,000,000. The City will be responsible for the local share.
- D. The City of Cuyahoga Falls is in receipt of and acknowledges the applicability of the AMATS "Funding Policy Guidelines" to this funding request.

Mr. Demasi stated that this is, again, the same project and same application except they would be going for TASA funds instead of CRP Funds. The TASA Program funds by school and pedestrian facilities so it might fit into this as well or better than CRP. Nonetheless, they are going to apply for it since it does not cost anything to apply.

Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-112 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.