

SMITHVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN WORK SESSION

November 6, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers and Via Videoconference

1. Call to Order

Mayor Boley, present, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present: Melissa Wilson, Marv Atkins, Leeah Shipley, Dan Ulledahl and Dan Hartman. Ronald Russell was present via Zoom.

Staff present: Cynthia Wagner, Gina Pate, Chief Lockridge, Chuck Soules, Matt Denton and Linda Drummond.

2. Discussion of Grant Opportunities

Cynthia noted that Chuck Soules, Public Works Director, provided an overview of the status of current and past grants in the staff report in order to make sure that people are aware of the grant funding that we seek. She explained that the big issue is we have a grant for Streetscape Phase III and when the project was bid last month, it came in significantly higher than we budgeted for the grant amount. Chuck has been working diligently with Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) and MoDOT and has a proposed way to address the situation. Staff wants to make sure the Board is okay with the proposed changes. Cynthia noted that we are in the funding cycle for MARC transportation grant funding and Chuck will present information and staff needs to get feedback from the Board as to what grants the City should or should not apply for because when we commit to grants, it affects our funding stream for other projects.

Chuck explained that grants come with requirements, sometimes it is physical aspects like on the RTP grant, we have to sign that we will maintain the facilities for the next 25 years. Staff has applied for grants for projects that have been identified in the City's Master Plans: Wastewater, Water, Transportation, Comprehensive, Parks and Recreation and Stormwater. Chuck noted that we have been successful in obtaining all three grants we applied for from MARC. MARC charges one percent of the funds received up front then there is the cost of the engineering, the right of way and the match for the grants. Chuck noted that the projects that we applied for grants could not be done at this time without the funds from the grants.

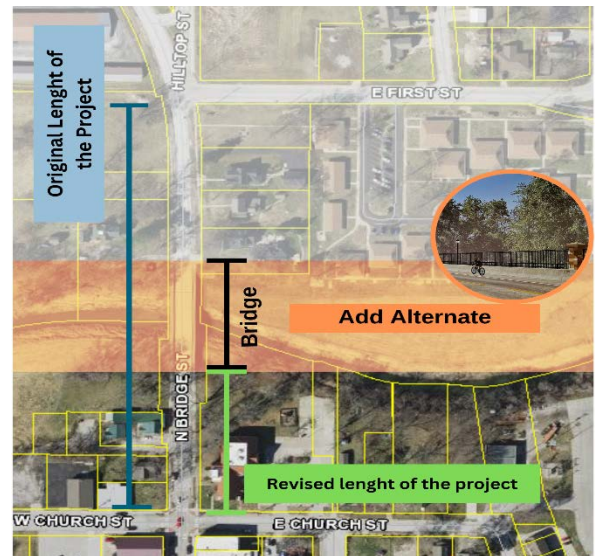
Chuck explained that the Streetscape Phase III project was let in October, and we received two bids. The project is located on Bridge Street from Church Street to First Street.



The project originally was to put in brand new sidewalks, bike sharrows, grassy areas, trees,

pedestrian lighting and brick accents on both sides of the bridge and replacing the galvanized chain link fence with the montage railing. The bids came in at \$1.7 million and we have a total of \$488,000 from MARC and \$312,000 in the budget for a total of \$800,000. The \$1.7 million included about \$200,000 to \$250,000 for utility work at the intersection of First Street and Bridge Street. If we take that out, the Streetscape portion itself is \$1.5 million and we only have a \$800,000 budget. Chuck noted that the montage fence that we put on Main Street Trail cost \$89 a foot and now is cost between \$300 and \$400 a foot.

Chuck noted that staff is proposing to revise the length of the project. He explained that he will go Wednesday to MARC to discuss this revision with them. The revision will be to do the work on the south end of the bridge for a cost of \$350,000 based on the bids we received. Then as an add alternate adding the fencing and lighting onto the bridge for a cost of \$400,000 for those improvements. That would bring the project cost up to the \$800,000 budgeted amount. The north side of the project runs about \$700,000. Chuck noted that it would be nice to be able to do the north and south end, especially since the north end really needs it. Doing the bridge is more for beautification than actual physical need. Chuck explained to do the south and the north end and not the bridge the cost would be about \$1.1 million but we still only have \$800,000. Chuck noted that this project was funded through a TAP, Transportation Alternatives Program, which is another funding mechanism MARC has and they typically do not have the kinds of funds that the STP, Surface Transportation Program does.



Alderman Atkins asked if we were to wait a couple of years to do the fencing, if Chuck thought the prices would come down.

Chuck said that he could not answer that.

Mayor Boley noted that beautification was not the only reason that we looked at replacing the fencing. It was also because residents at the Housing Authority cannot travel through there in their wheelchairs when the weeds grow through there and getting weeds out of the chain link fence is difficult. Mayor Boley suggested doing the side of the Housing Authority and not doing the west side of the bridge yet.

Chuck noted that we could start with the project on the south side and resubmit for the north end could be a possibility. He explained that we do have the roundabout planned at First Street and Bridge Street in a couple of years, but that project looks like it could be twice as much as we have budgeted. We will have to ask for additional funding for that project before we even proceed with the design of it.

Mayor Boley suggested possibly not doing the curbs and guttering but fixing the concrete up to the Housing Authority's sidewalk.

Chuck noted that we could piecemeal some of the project such as replacing the sidewalk on the northeast side from the bridge to the Housing Authority and it could be done with City funds.

Alderman Hartman asked if the engineering had been done for the project.

Chuck explained that the engineering is done, but depending on the scope changes, we will have some modifications and HDR will have to revise the plans. We would have another expense for that.

Alderman Hartman asked if he was correct that originally we were going to do water and sewer with the project.

Chuck explained that we have done a lot of the work on water and sewer at First Street and Bridge Street, but it has not been completed. We still have to do the stormwater, connecting the sewer in the area correctly and a water line from the intersection down to the bridge.

Alderman Atkins asked if Chuck thought we might be able to obtain additional funds from MARC.

Chuck explained that staff could bring the project back to the Board for approval, otherwise staff would bring back the amendment for HDR so we can get the project moving and re-bid. Chuck noted that any changes made have to be re-submitted and approved through MARC and MoDOT. He could not say how long that process would take.

Alderman Wilson said that she would like to know if MARC would have additional funding before we decide anything.

Chuck explained that he will present the scope like he presented tonight and suggest to MARC if they have additional funds, we could do the north end, but if not he will tell them we cannot do the north end.

Alderman Russell asked if we could complete the entire project and not do the roundabout project.

Chuck explained that the stipulations on the grants are very specific. He noted that we have an agreement with the state that we are going to do this project. They are being very specific on the scope of the project. We have a different scope and a different contract with the state for the roundabout project. The roundabout project funds are coming out of the STP, and they do not mix the funding.

Chuck noted that MARC will not meet again until February and his plan is if he can get them to approve this scope now we could have it bid by February so we can have it built next spring. He explained that MARC has already appropriated all the funds and the only way that we would be able to get more money is if another community has fallen behind and they give us those funds. Chuck noted that staff could bring this back to the Board for more discussion and then take the changes to MARC in February. It would then probably be March before we could bid it and late summer to start the project.

Chuck explained that at this time MARC solicitations for projects communities want to see in

the Metropolitan Transportation Program plan. This plan is just an overall plan of every project that all the communities want. You have to be on that plan in order to receive funding for the next round of grants. In the staff report, Chuck provided a list of projects if the Board of Alderman are interested. The project list is due by December 8. The projects will all go through a thorough evaluation and have to meet the multimodal transportation options, environmental, air quality, etc. Chuck explained that it is a 20-page application process. If we score high enough we would at least be added to the plan list which would set us up for funding in the future. The project added to the list the first of the year will be projected funded in 2027 & 2028. Chuck noted that he submitted the Streetscape project in 2020 for funding in 2024. He said that you expect cost to go up but did not expect anything like what we saw in the two bids we received.

Chuck asked for Board recommendation on the list of potential projects or for project recommendations.

Potential Projects

Project	Eng/ R/W	Construction		Total	
		City	MARC	City	MARC
Streetscape PH IV	\$100	\$200	\$800	\$300	\$800
Wayfinding PH I	Complete	\$150	\$500	\$150	\$500
Pope Lane (Street, Path, Bike, Roundabout)	\$1.8 M	\$1.4 M	\$5.6 M	\$3.2 M	\$5.6 M
N. Main (Complete St)	\$2.3 M	\$1.8 M	\$7.2 M	\$4.1 M	\$7.2 M
Bridge St Sidewalk (First St. to HWY 169)	\$100	\$70	\$280	\$170	\$280

Mayor Boley noted that two of the projects are on Clay County's list: North Main and connecting 180th Street to 188th Street and Eagle Parkway Trail project. He suggested working with Clay County on those two projects and taking them to the Northland Transportation group to see if Clay County needs to submit it or if we need to submit it. Mayor Boley suggested that Pope Lane be a lower priority until the property is developed.

Alderman Hartman agreed that we should work with Clay County. He also noted that this grant funding has been available, but the City had never applied for it in the past.

Mayor Boley explained that we are part of a metropolitan planning organization and do not receive direct federal funding it all goes through MARC.

Chuck noted that this is a competitive process that includes the entire Kansas City metropolitan area. He explained that areas that have a lot more traffic receive a bigger portion of the funding, but MARC has been very good to work with and are sensitive to smaller communities' needs and budgets.

Alderman Wilson suggested the Pine Street sidewalk to Maple Elementary School would be a good project.

Chuck noted that the new sidewalk on Quincy Boulevard will go all the way up to Pine Street and Maple Avenue. With that project they would continue the sidewalk down to the school and install a HAWK signal crosswalk.

Chuck noted that the work on Quincy Boulevard now has all the water lines in, all the storm sewer work is in and beginning tomorrow they will start pouring back some of the driveways they had to tear out on Pine Street. They will then begin working on grading the sidewalk from Pine Street all the way around to Owens. The road from Owens to Hawthorne will be completed next spring because it is a full tear out.

Chuck noted that staff would submit Wayfinding and Streetscape Phase IV to get them in the TIP then we can prioritize the projects that make it then see which ones we want to apply for funding for 2027/2028.

3. Adjourn

Alderman Ulledahl moved to adjourn. Alderman Atkins seconded the motion.

Ayes – 6, Noes – 0, motion carries. Mayor Boley declared the Work Session adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Linda Drummond, City Clerk

Damien Boley, Mayor