



Board Summary Report

Date: November 16, 2020
To: Board of County Commissioners
Through: Shannon Carter, Open Spaces and Intergovernmental Relations Director
From: Brett Collins, Grants and Acquisitions Manager
Subject: Joint Project-High Line Canal Underpass at Parker & Mississippi Funding

Request and Recommendation

Open Spaces staff recommends the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approve an expenditure of \$590,200 for cost overruns on the Pedestrian underpass project on the High Line Canal at South Parker Road and East Mississippi Avenue.

This item was heard and approved by the BoCC at a study session on November 10, 2020.

Background

In 2014, Arapahoe County completed a Feasibility Study for High Line Canal Crossings on behalf of the High Line Canal Working Group (HLCWG) to evaluate alternative improvements to roadway crossings of the High Line Canal Trail at nine locations within Arapahoe County.

One of the locations studied was where the High Line Canal Trail crosses Parker Road near the Mississippi Avenue intersection. The study's outcome recommended a pedestrian underpass at this location to remove an unsafe on-street crossing of Parker and Mississippi. The boundary between Denver and Arapahoe County approximately splits the intersection, with Denver on the northern half. Parker Road is a state highway (SH 83) owned and maintained by CDOT, although Denver operates the Mississippi Avenue signal.

In 2018, a partnership was formed between CDOT, Denver, and Arapahoe County to fund the pedestrian underpass, and a project budget was set at \$5,521,000. CDOT contributed \$3,201,000 (TIP Funding), Denver contributed \$1,160,000 and Arapahoe County contributed \$1,160,000.

Links to Align Arapahoe

- Increase Intergovernmental Cooperation
- Increase Community and Regional Partnerships
- Improve Park, Trail, and Open Space Opportunities
- Improve Customer Experience
- Optimize Use of Resources
- Enhance Quality of Life

Discussion

Since 2018, Denver has conducted a design and bidding process and has awarded a construction contract to Ralph L. Wadsworth Construction for the project.

The project has experienced a cost overrun in the amount of \$1,180,400, making the total project cost \$6,701,400. Per the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City and County of Denver, Arapahoe County is responsible for 50% of any cost overruns, which is \$590,200. Below is a breakdown of the revised total expenses for each agency.

Parker/Mississippi Underpass Revised Expenses

CDOT (TIP Funding)	City & County of Denver	Arapahoe County	Project Total
\$3,201,000	\$1,750,200	\$1,750,200	\$6,701,400

Staff from Open Spaces and Public Works have reviewed the overrun and recommend approving the additional funding due to the high priority need for an underpass at this location. Any funding not spent on the project will be returned to the County.

Alternatives

Approve, modify, or deny the funding request.

Fiscal Impact

For this project, County funding in the amount of \$590,200 will come from the Open Spaces Acquisition and Development Fund. The fund balance exceeds this amount.

Concurrence

On February 26, 2018, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB) recommended the BoCC fund the project.

Reviewed By:

Brett Collins, Grants and Acquisitions Manager
Shannon Carter, Intergovernmental Relations and Open Spaces Director
Tiffanie Bleau, Assistant County Attorney
Todd Weaver, Director of Finance

RESOLUTION NO. _____. It was moved by Commissioner _____ and duly seconded by Commissioner _____ to approve a request for funding in the amount of \$590,200 in Open Space Acquisition and Trails funds for the cost overrun on the High Line Canal Underpass Project at South Parker Road and East Mississippi Avenue.

The vote was:

Commissioner Baker, ; Commissioner Conti, ; Commissioner Holen, ; Commissioner Jackson, ; Commissioner Sharpe, .

The Chair declared the motion carried and so ordered.