

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

June 6, 2017

City Council

STAFF

Timothy Kemp, Civil Engineer III

SUBJECT

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 065, 2017, Appropriating Prior Year Reserves in the Transportation Fund for the Elizabeth and Shields Underpass Improvement Project, and Transferring Appropriations to the Cultural Services and Facilities Fund for the Art in Public Places Program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance, unanimously adopted on First Reading on May 16, 2017, appropriates \$280,000 from the Transportation Fund Reserves for traffic signal and pedestrian signal improvements associated with the Elizabeth and Shields Underpass improvement project. Colorado State University (CSU) is funding and constructing an \$8.7M pedestrian and bicycle underpass, and intersection lane improvements at the Elizabeth and Shields intersection. As part of this project, the City is upgrading the traffic signal system and constructing a new pedestrian/bicycle signal west of the intersection. The City's Traffic Operations Department will perform the construction work associated with this appropriation. The project is expected to be substantially complete in August 2017.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on Second Reading.

ATTACHMENTS

1. First Reading Agenda Item Summary, May 16, 2017 (w/o attachments) (PDF)
2. Ordinance No. 065, 2017 (PDF)

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

May 16, 2017

STAFF

Timothy Kemp, Civil Engineer III

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 065, 2017, Appropriating Prior Year Reserves in the Transportation Fund for the Elizabeth and Shields Underpass Improvement Project, and Transferring Appropriations to the Cultural Services and Facilities Fund for the Art in Public Places Program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to appropriate \$280,000 from the Transportation Fund Reserves for traffic signal and pedestrian signal improvements associated with the Elizabeth and Shields Underpass improvement project. Colorado State University (CSU) is funding and constructing an \$8.7M pedestrian and bicycle underpass, and intersection lane improvements at the Elizabeth and Shields intersection. As part of this project, the City is upgrading the traffic signal system and constructing a new pedestrian / bicycle signal west of the intersection. The City's Traffic Operations Department will perform the construction work associated with this appropriation. The project is expected to be substantially complete in August, 2017.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Elizabeth and Shields intersection (**Attachment 1**) was identified for infrastructure improvements as part of the new on-campus stadium. The work is referenced in the 2015 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City and CSU. Lane improvements at the Elizabeth and Shields intersection were mandated in the IGA, along with further technical feasibility analysis for a grade separated crossing. The feasibility analysis was completed in the spring of 2016 and a design-build team was hired in July, 2016 to advance the underpass design and determine right-of-way needs for the project.

CSU completed a willing seller right-of-way purchase with the Campus West Shops in November, 2016, and construction began on the project in December, 2016.

An amendment to the City-CSU IGA, also under consideration on this agenda, formalizes the responsibility of CSU for the construction of the underpass, and identifies a contribution from the City of \$280,000 for signal upgrades, modification, and the bicycle / pedestrian crossing signal to the west of the intersection.

The City and CSU have been working in partnership for several years to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety amidst continued and projected population growth along the West Elizabeth corridor. CSU is making a series of enhancements as a commitment by the university to improve safety and make the campus more accessible.

This project aligns with multiple City and CSU planning efforts, such as:

- West Central Area Plan (2015)
- CSU Parking and Transportation Master Plan (2014)
- City Bicycle Master Plan (2014)
- City Student Housing Action Plan (2013)

- City Arterial Intersection Prioritization Study (2011)
- City Transportation Master Plan (2011)

All of these planning efforts have identified the need for improvements at the Elizabeth and Shields intersection with recurring themes of: enhanced safety, separation of travel modes, and reducing the number of conflict points and crashes.

Project Goals:

- Improve Safety: Separation of travel modes to make it easier for bicyclists and pedestrians to cross Shields Street, reduce the number of conflict points and crashes, and relocate the existing Elizabeth mid-block crossing and upgrade it to a full bicycle / pedestrian signal for protection
- Improve Traffic Flow during Campus Events: The underpass will allow “free flow” bicycle and pedestrian traffic to and from campus following Moby, stadium, and other on-campus events
- Plan for the Long-Term Vision: Create a gateway feature between the Campus West area and the University, construct urban design features and site appropriate landscaping improvements, provide a safer alternative for multi-modal travel
- Minimize Construction Impacts: Implementation of a phased construction schedule to optimize work during winter and spring breaks, working with area residents and businesses owners, and providing clear communication for bicycle and pedestrian traffic in the area

This appropriation will provide funding for a rebuild of the entire traffic signal system at the Elizabeth and Shields intersection, the installation of a bicycle / pedestrian signal at the relocated Elizabeth mid-block crossing, and the upgrade of all associated underground fiber optic cable.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

This Ordinance authorizes the appropriation of prior year reserves in the Transportation Fund for traffic signal improvements associated with the Elizabeth and Shields Underpass improvement project.

The total funding request for the City is in the amount of \$280,000. The City will construct, own, and maintain all of the signal equipment. CSU secured its funding for the necessary right-of-way purchase and the construction contract in the fall 2016.

One percent of the appropriation for the construction of the traffic signal systems (\$2,800) will be transferred to the Cultural Services and Facilities Fund for a contribution to the Art in Public Places (APP) Program, with \$2,184 reserved for the APP artwork project and \$616 reserved for the maintenance of the artwork and operations of the APP program.

BOARD / COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The following boards and commissions recommended approval of this project:

- Bicycle Advisory Committee on September 26, 2016 (**Attachment 2**)
- Transportation Board on October 19, 2016. (**Attachment 3**)
- Planning and Zoning Board on November 10, 2016. (**Attachment 4**)

PUBLIC OUTREACH

City staff and CSU staff worked collaboratively on a detailed Communication and Public Outreach Plan. Implementation of the Plan, that included numerous events during the project design, began in August 2016 and will be ongoing through completion of construction. Staff will continue to use various outreach tools to communicate with the public. The project websites are kept current with the latest construction information.

<http://www.fcgov.com/engineering/elizabeth-shields.php>

<http://source.colostate.edu/construction-and-parking/shields-underpass-proposal/>

ATTACHMENTS

1. Location Map (PDF)
2. Bicycle Advisory Commission, September 26, 2016 (PDF)
3. Transportation Board minutes, October 19, 2017 (PDF)
4. Planning and Zoning Board minutes, November 10, 2016 (PDF)

COPY

ORDINANCE NO. 065, 2017
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
APPROPRIATING PRIOR YEAR RESERVES IN THE TRANSPORTATION FUND
FOR THE ELIZABETH AND SHIELDS UNDERPASS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
AND TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE CULTURAL SERVICES
AND FACILITIES FUND FOR THE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Colorado State University (“CSU”) is funding and constructing an \$8.7 million pedestrian and bicycle underpass, and intersection lane improvements at the Elizabeth and Shields Street intersection; and

WHEREAS, as part of this project, the City is upgrading the traffic signal system and constructing a new pedestrian/bicycle signal west of the intersection; and

WHEREAS, lane improvements at the Elizabeth and Shields intersection were mandated in the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and CSU regarding the on-campus stadium dated April 13, 2015 (the “IGA”); and

WHEREAS, a proposed amendment to the IGA being considered by the City Council by a separate resolution formalizes the responsibility of CSU for the construction of an underpass, and identifies a contribution from the City of \$280,000 for signal upgrades, modification, and the bicycle/pedestrian crossing signal to the west of the intersection; and

WHEREAS, this project aligns with multiple City and CSU planning efforts which have identified the need for improvements at the Elizabeth and Shields intersection with recurring themes of enhanced safety, separation of travel modes, and reducing the number of conflict points and crashes; and

WHEREAS, this appropriation would provide funding for a rebuild of the entire traffic signal system at the Elizabeth and Shields intersection, the installation of a bicycle / pedestrian signal at the relocated Elizabeth mid-block crossing, and the upgrade of all associated underground fiber optic cable; and

WHEREAS, the City’s Traffic Operations Department will perform the construction work associated with this appropriation and the project is expected to be completed in August, 2017; and

WHEREAS, this project involves construction estimated to cost more than \$250,000; therefore, Section 23-304 of the City Code requires one percent of this appropriation to be transferred to the Cultural Services and Facilities Fund for the Art in Public Places (“APP”) program; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance would appropriate \$280,000 from the Transportation Fund Reserves to cover costs of the Project (\$277,200) and one percent of project cost required for the Art in Public Places Program of \$2,800: \$2,184 for the APP artwork project and \$616 for the maintenance of the artwork and operations of the APP program; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 9 of the City Charter permits the City Council to appropriate by ordinance at any time during the fiscal year such funds for expenditure as may be available from reserves accumulated in prior years, notwithstanding that such reserves were not previously appropriated; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 10, of the City Charter authorizes the City Council to transfer by ordinance any unexpended and unencumbered appropriated amount or portion thereof from one fund to another fund, provided that the purpose for which the transferred funds are to be expended remains unchanged.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby makes and adopts the determinations and findings contained in the recitals set forth above.

Section 2. That there is hereby appropriated from prior year reserves in the Transportation Fund the sum of TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$280,000) for rebuilding the traffic signal system and constructing a new pedestrian/bicycle signal west of the intersection as part of the Elizabeth and Shields Underpass Improvement Project.

Section 3. That the unexpended appropriated amount of TWO THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$2,184) in the Transportation Fund is authorized for transfer to the Cultural Services and Facilities Fund and appropriated therein for an Art in Public Places Art Project.

Section 4. That the unexpended appropriated amount of SIX HUNDRED SIXTEEN DOLLARS (\$616) in the Transportation Fund is authorized for transfer to the Cultural Services and Facilities Fund and appropriated therein for the Art in Public Places Program Maintenance and Operations.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading, and ordered published this 16th day of May, A.D. 2017, and to be presented for final passage on the 6th day of June, A.D. 2017.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Passed and adopted on final reading on the 6th day of June, A.D. 2017.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk