

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL

ITEM NUMBER: 9

DATE: April 21, 2009

STAFF: Matt Baker
Rick Richter

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 033, 2009, Transferring Existing Appropriations in the Street Oversizing Fund into the Capital Projects Fund for the Drake Road Improvements, Taft Hill to Overland Trail Project.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This Ordinance transfers \$280,315 from existing Street Oversizing appropriations into the Capital Projects Fund for the Drake Road Improvements, Taft Hill to Overland Trail Project. The improvements are needed to construct the remaining roadway widening on the south side of Drake Road, between Taft Hill and Overland Trail. This will allow Drake Road to be restriped to a four lane roadway. This appropriation will provide the funds needed to immediately proceed with construction of the roadway improvements.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There are three parcels on the south side of Drake Road between Taft Hill and Overland Trail that have not developed, leaving a constriction which will not allow Drake Road to function as a four lane arterial street. The last subdivision improvement was completed in 1994. Traffic volumes have been increasing on this important east/west arterial. Staff has been acquiring right-of-way for the last three years in conjunction with electric utility easements needed to underground overhead power lines. Utility work has been completed and staff believes it is time to make the final roadway improvements prior to a scheduled maintenance overlay later this year. These improvements will complete the enlargement of Drake Road to a four lane arterial roadway from Taft Hill Road to Overland Trail.

BACKGROUND

Drake Road is designated as a four lane arterial on the City's Master Street Plan. Beginning in 1977, various portions of the roadway have been improved along the frontage of development projects. The last frontage improvement was completed in 1994. There are three parcels on the south side of the roadway that have not developed. These unimproved properties are keeping the roadway

from being a four lane arterial. Traffic volumes have grown over the last 15 years to a point where Drake Road is near capacity for its present striping configuration. This important east/west arterial is also an important route to CSU Hughes Stadium events.

Recognizing that improvements would not be accomplished through normal development, staff has acquired by negotiation the rights-of-way necessary to widen the roadway and install bike lanes and sidewalks along these last few undeveloped parcels.

Several years ago, the City's Electric Utility Department began acquiring easements to place the existing overhead electric lines underground. The City's Engineering Department provided roadway alignment information to locate these easements in the ultimate location for the future widening. Because the easement acquisition and valuation process is so similar to the right-of-way process, staff contacted the property owners about the possibility of negotiating the purchase of road right-of-way.

The City's Engineering Department completed the roadway design with in-house staff. The design work was done during winter time periods when construction activity was slow. This allowed the design to be completed with no additional cost and within existing budgets.

The City's Pavement Management Program has scheduled this portion of Drake Road, from Taft to Overland, for a maintenance overlay this year. Completing the widening now would allow the overlay to tie in the new pavement, eliminating a pavement joint. It would also allow the final four lane striping of Drake Road to be painted one time after the overlay.

Notices of a repayment obligation will be held against the properties for the next 10 years in the event of future development. If any of these properties develop in that time, the City would be able to recapture the normal development portion of roadway costs from the property.

The right-of-way acquisition is complete, the engineering design is complete, and the project is ready to bid once appropriation is approved. Coordination with the pavement management overlay will give a better final product and eliminate additional striping costs. Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Location map.



**Drake Road Improvements,
Taft Hill to Overland**



April 2, 2009

ORDINANCE NO. 033, 2009
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
TRANSFERRING EXISTING APPROPRIATIONS IN THE STREET
OVERSIZING FUND TO THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND FOR THE DRAKE
ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, TAFT HILL TO OVERLAND TRAIL PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City's Master Street Plan has designated the section of Drake Road between Taft Hill and Overland Trail as a four-lane arterial; and

WHEREAS, said section of Drake Road adjoins three undeveloped lots and is two lanes in width; and

WHEREAS, Drake Road serves as a major east west arterial and is a major access point to events at Hughes Stadium; and

WHEREAS, over the previous fifteen years, traffic in this area has increased beyond the capacity of the current design of this section of Drake Road; and

WHEREAS, the Drake Road Improvements, Taft Hill and Overland Trail Project (the "Project") will add two lanes, curb and gutter, sidewalks, and bike lanes to this section of Drake Road (the "Improvements"); and

WHEREAS, City staff has acquired the necessary right-of-way, including utility easements used to underground utilities, to construct the Project; and

WHEREAS, this section of Drake Road is also due for an asphalt overlay as part of the City's Pavement Management Program, and completing the Improvements prior to this asphalt overlay would avoid a pavement joint and duplication of striping Drake Road; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the Improvements totals \$280,315 and is available from existing appropriations in the Street Oversizing Fund; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 9, of the Charter of the City of Fort Collins permits the City Council to make supplemental appropriations by ordinance at any time during the fiscal year, provided that the total amount of such supplemental appropriations, in combination with all previous appropriations for that fiscal year, does not exceed the current estimate of actual and anticipated revenues to be received during the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, City staff has determined that the foregoing appropriations, totaling \$280,315, will not cause the total amount appropriated in the Street Oversizing Fund to exceed the current estimate of actual and anticipated revenues to be received during the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council to transfer existing appropriations in the Street Oversizing Fund to the Capital Projects Fund - Drake Road Improvements, Taft Hill to Overland Trail capital project, for appropriation therein, to construct roadway improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS that there is hereby appropriated from existing appropriations in the Street Oversizing Fund, the sum of TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FIFTEEN DOLLARS (\$280,315) for transfer to the Capital Projects Fund - Drake Road Improvements, Taft Hill to Overland Trail capital project for construction of roadway improvements.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading, and ordered published this 21st day of April, A.D. 2009, and to be presented for final passage on the 5th day of May, A.D. 2009.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Passed and adopted on final reading on the 5th day of May, A.D. 2009.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk