

Item 25-0678: Request to approve two resolutions for the development of a corridor study and a comprehensive bike and pedestrian plan in support of SS4A Planning and Demonstration MPO Grant Applications

Finance Committee

Mon, Jun 09, 2025 5:30PM

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 05:06

Next up is 25-0678, request to approve two resolutions for the development of a corridor study and a comprehensive bike and pedestrian plan in support of SS4A planning and demonstration MPO grant applications.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 05:23

Move to approve.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 05:25

Second

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 05:26

All right. We have a motion and a second. Director Homan, I see you're going for the mic, so why don't you get us started off then, please.

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 05:34

Sure. So, a little bit of background on this project. One of the things we've been working on internally is between public works department, Parks and Recreation Department, and the planning team within community development, we have identified over the course of several years a need for an updated and integrated bicycle and pedestrian plan that would take the work we've done in terms of our on street bicycle plan that was adopted in 2010 as well as the trails master plan—really integrated, so we have a cohesive and thoughtful way of moving forward for the planning of our bicycle and pedestrian trails.

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 06:11

We've been searching for grant funds to help fund that. So, we had identified the federal safe streets for all grant as an opportunity for us to secure substantial federal funds that would fund most of that cost. In doing so, the way that that project is set up is, any time a metropolitan planning organization, which is the regional transportation planning agency for the area, chooses to apply, it needs to be done as a consolidated application. So, once we indicated we were interested in this particular project, we also became aware of a multi-jurisdictional need for a corridor study of County Highway KK which spans two counties and, I think, four municipalities.

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 06:59

So, what you have before you is a request to support two resolutions. One resolution to support the bicycle and pedestrian plan for the city of Appleton, as well as a demonstration kit that would come with that planning effort. And I'll kind of turn it over to DPW to talk a little bit more about that if there's any questions. And then the second resolution would be related to the support of the multi-jurisdictional County Highway KK resolution. The reason they're separate is just in the event that if one of the municipalities chooses not to move forward on that piece of the grant application, we can still move forward on just our piece for the bicycle and pedestrian plan.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 07:40

All right, that sounds good. Thank you. Are there any questions, or, Director Jungwirth, did you want to give us a little bit about the road kit?

Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 07:47

Yes, so it would be—we would work on—in our Complete Streets guide and plan, we have identified key target areas that we'd like to work on, traffic calming and safety improvement measures. In this kit would give us the tools and guidance that we would need to be able to implement those and integrate them into existing roadways that maybe we're not planning on reconstructing. So, they're little retrofits, if you will, that would be able to fit with within throughout the city of areas that we see as a need.

Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 08:26

The other piece I did want to speak to a bit is the KK piece, and East Central has been organizing collective meetings with both counties, Calumet and Outagamie, and all of the adjacent local municipalities that that about that corridor, and really have been working on it comprehensively. We've all recognized that that there's a need there and felt it would be beneficial for us to collaboratively look at that, contribute our appropriate calculated frontage along it to contribute to that grant that's needing to be covered. It's an 80/20 split. But so as of now, all of the other municipalities are bringing forth resolutions to their respective municipalities for approval. So, then we have a collective front with this, and we're hoping that that sets us forward in that grant approval process to have that that group rally behind the project.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 09:27

Sounds good. I saw Alder Croatt and then Alder Hartzheim.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 09:30

Yes, thank you, Chair. Just wanting to confirm the costs associated with these two resolutions. So, the first one requires a local match of \$40,000 and then the second one is a split between two counties and four municipalities, I believe, for Appleton's share at \$18,348? That sound correct?

Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 09:53

Correct.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 09:54

Okay, thank you.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 09:56

Alder Hartzheim.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 09:58

My thunder has been stolen.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 09:59

All right. Alder Fenton.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 10:01

Thank you, Chair. Can—may I direct my question to either of the directors who can answer? Am I understanding correctly that East Central East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning will do all of the grant application leg work and that they're applying for the grant?

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 10:19

Yes. So, they're coordinating and applying for the grant with a lot of inputs from us and other municipalities.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 10:25

Thank you.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 10:26

Alder Hartzheim.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 10:27

Thank you, Chair. I am curious—I'm hopeful that we can get this grant. But I am curious where the numbers that Appleton would be responsible for, where in our budgets those would come from?

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 10:42

Did you want to take it?

Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 10:44

We would plan for—we would put this in our CIP, upcoming CIP, and it would be 2026 funding we would allocate towards it. I believe we have two years for implement—two years for completing the study.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 10:58

Thank you.

Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 10:58

So, we would plan for it in our next budget cycle.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 11:00

Thank you.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 11:03

All right. I see Alder van Zeeland, you joined—we just had to change the view so I can actually see you. But go ahead.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 11:10

Thank you, Chair. Can you hear me okay?

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 11:13

Yes.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 11:15

Okay, thank you. I think this is very important. This runs along District Five, which, because of some border battles in the previous administration, we didn't really have the cooperation to get something like this done. So,

it's been put off for some time. So, I would encourage my colleagues to move forward with it, given that this is everyone doing their part. Thank you.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 11:44

Thank you. Anyone else? All right, I'll just say—oh, sorry, Alder Wolff, sneaking in here. Go ahead.

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 11:53

So, this is quite a bit of money for this study. Can we talk more about how in depth the study is, and you briefly touched on, like, it would go over [unclear] streets, like, this whole broad area. Just like, what is the study actually look like? How many people are out there? What are they doing necessarily? Like, you know.

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 12:19

Just to clarify your question, are you asking about the bicycle and pedestrian plan component, or the corridor study?

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 12:26

The corridor study?

Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development) 12:27

I'm going to defer that to Laura then.

Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 12:33

So, it's going to be a lot of the preliminary engineering work that's associated. I shouldn't say preliminary engineering—preliminary study that would be needed before we can move into a design. So, traffic analyzes, potential wetland, you know, potential wetland delineations, really a study to determine the feasibility as to what we could do with that corridor to make the safety improvements necessary. Pete, I'm going to refer to you, if there's anything else you want to add to that, if there's items I'm missing.

Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 13:07

Director one please. Yeah, along with that, typical street sections and typically some conceptual designs for intersections along the corridor too would be part of that.

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 13:21

Just one follow up. I'm not—like I think that what we're doing is a good idea, especially seeing what we're trying to prevent, but I'm not really understanding how it costs as much as it does. Like the \$800,000 seems like a lot of money, and I just need to be sure that that's a reasonable amount of money for the project that we're looking at.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 13:49

Go ahead, Deputy Director.

Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 13:50

I think part of what feeds into this is it's—you're talking about four and a half miles with four and a half miles of corridor, multiple jurisdictions. You've got connections with highway 55, the 441 interchange, some very, very high traffic volume interchanges. The intent here is to do it justice in terms of all the feeder mechanisms, regional traffic considerations that that feed into this, significant analysis of the impacts of the traffic counts at all of the intersections. I think all of that feeds into just a very large scope project, probably much, much larger than what we would typically see in in terms of a local project that Appleton would have to tackle on its own.

Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 14:40

And we want to look at that corridor in its entirety, so that you don't stop at a certain point, or municipality to municipality, and then ultimately, one person—or one municipality makes an improvement, and then you have, you have a bottleneck on the next segment. So really, for the planning portion of it, you would want to look at it cohesively and comprehensively for that traffic flowing through the entirety of that segment, and it is, like Pete mentioned, a very significant, lengthy stretch of roadway.

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 15:08

Okay, thank you.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 15:10

All right. Anyone else?

Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 15:11

I will add that our meetings that we've had have been great, and I will say it's felt like a very revitalized and rejuvenated collaborative environment with the other municipalities. And, you know, I've been having independent conversations even with Harrison on other projects, and it's really open the door to what I hope is good for our future working through some of these projects.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 15:35

That's very good to hear. I was just going to say before that the collaborative—trying to nail down collaboration for something like this, I imagine it's got to be very challenging with just everyone schedules, a lot of space here, and no, I look forward to what this can find. This is a very challenging corridor, and I think if we can make it safer for everyone, then that's going to be very rewarding.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 15:56

So, with that, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? That passes five to zero.