

City Council Meeting Agenda Items
Monday, September 26, 2016; 7:00 PM
Questions from City Council

From: Alderman Amelia Buragas

Questions regarding Item No. 7E:

1. Is this just for an engineering study or does this include design of the proposed improvements?
2. Do we have a ballpark cost of the completed project? Are we talking less than \$1 million, \$1-5 million, or more?
3. The IGA states that the County "has entered into an Engineering Agreement. . ." Has the County already entered into an agreement? Is the agreement available for review?
4. The IGA states that the County is the "lead agency," have they already voted on this project?

Response from Jim Karch, Director of Public Works and Eric S. Schmitt, McLean County Administrator's Office

1. Is this just for an engineering study or does this include design of the proposed improvements?

The intergovernmental agreement is to review/update the Intersection Design Study (IDS), develop construction plans, and construction of the proposed improvements.

Per the council memo, "The City intends to use state Motor Fuel Tax for its share of the cost, and has budgeted \$400,000 in MFT money for the current fiscal year; \$400,000 will be more than sufficient to cover the City's share of design and right-of-way costs, but will not be not enough to cover the construction. Additional MFT funds will be proposed for the FY 2017-18 budget in order to see completion of the project."

2. Do we have a ballpark cost of the completed project? Are we talking less than \$1 million, \$1-5 million, or more?

Right now our preliminary estimate is \$750,000 for construction and \$128,200 for the completion of the IDS and development of the construction plans. Total cost would be \$878,200. This cost is preliminary and will be updated as the process moves forward and the County will provide the additional information to the City before the project moves into construction.

3. The IGA states that the County "has entered into an Engineering Agreement. . ." Has the County already entered into an agreement? Is the agreement available for review?

The County Board approved the Engineering Agreement at its September 20th meeting. The agreement is available on pages 5 thru 22 at the following link:

<http://il-mcleancounty.civicplus.com/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/4784>

4. The IGA states that the County is the "lead agency," have they already voted on this project? **The IGA was approved by the County at its September 20th meeting.**

From: Alderman Scott Black

Questions regarding Item No. 7E:

1. \$400k for one intersection seems very steep to me. Is there a more detailed breakdown of the cost totals which can be provided?
2. Is a traffic count for those turning Right on from Ireland Grove heading East onto T-B Road available?
3. Why now? What is driving this project to occur so quickly?
4. How would such a turn lane impact any of the County's future plans for expansion of T-B Road?

At a high level, \$400k just feels like way too much money for one intersection which services a very small part of our community. I wouldn't argue the work isn't needed, but I'm just not thinking this is the best use of money so quickly.

Response from: Jim Karch, Director of Public Works and Eric Schmitt

1. \$400k for one intersection seems very steep to me. Is there a more detailed breakdown of the cost totals which can be provided?

The cost of an intersection can actually vary significantly depending upon the extent of the roadwork associated with the traffic signals. If an intersection has the right geometry and only needs to add traffic signals at the corners, then a traffic signal project can cost as little as \$300,000. When a traffic signal is being done, it is standard engineering practice to do an Intersection Design Study (IDS). The IDS looks at the intersection operation over a 20 year period. Many times this IDS drives additional improvements to the lay configuration and intersection offsets. These pavement improvements can drive the cost of the project up significantly higher than the traffic signal components alone. That is the case with the Ireland Grove Road and Towanda Barnes Road intersection.

We don't have a detailed estimate of cost at this time. Our preliminary estimate of cost for the construction is \$750,000. There isn't a lot of signal work planned with this project, but the project will build over 1500' of new road for the free flow right turn lane. The free flow lane will be the majority of the cost for this project, as where the signal work will be minimal. The cost of the signal installation at T-B Road and Oakland Avenue which was built in 2008 was around \$784,000. That project was done as a joint project between the City and County and involved primarily signal work with very little road work.

2. Is a traffic count for those turning Right on from Ireland Grove heading East onto T-B Road available?

An updated traffic count for this turning movement can be provided upon the completion of an updated IDS.

Which traffic count are you looking for? Are you looking for the right turn from T-B Road onto Ireland Grove Road heading west? This is the primary movement that will be addressed by this project.

3. Why now? What is driving this project to occur so quickly?

This project has been in the City of Bloomington budget for a few years waiting on available funding from McLean County. The City and County did do some interim improvements in 2013 to try to help the traffic signal operation while the funding became available for the larger project.

This project has been on the project list for several years. An Intersection Design Study (IDS) was started in March of 2013. Some initial steps from the IDS were taken to help the situation at this intersection a couple years ago. Our budget has not allowed for the project to move forward to planning and construction until now. The widening of T-B Road between Fort Jesse Road and Raab Road and the resurfacing of several sections of T-B Road have been the focal point of work on T-B Road for the last several years. The resurfacing projects have been completed and the widening project is nearing completion.

4. How would such a turn lane impact any of the County's future plans for expansion of T-B Road?

This project will address the largest issue that we have on this section of T-B Road. The largest issue that we have here is significant back up of vehicles trying to make the right turn movement from T-B Road onto westbound Ireland Grove Road during the am peak. There are currently no plans beyond this project to expand T-B Road at this location, because it is already a 5 lanes here and to go 7 lanes isn't foreseeable at this time.

The project will also address the needs of the City by assessing the westbound movement at the intersection. It is anticipated that a dedicated right turn lane from westbound Ireland Grove Road will be needed onto Towanda Barnes Road.