



**CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

ADMINISTRATION

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mayor Laurel Lunt Prussing and Members of the City Council
FROM: William R. Gray, P. E.
DATE: July 19, 2007
RE: *Philo Road Beautification Plan*

INTRODUCTION

On Monday, June 25, 2007 the Committee of the Whole met to discuss ideas of how the Philo Road corridor can be enhanced aesthetically and to what level of funding would the City Council support. The Committee passed a motion directing staff to “bring a slightly more concrete plan to tell the Committee for \$200,000 what roughly the scope of a consultant and work could be, and inform Committee on where the funding would come from, and bring a budget amendment and action list to be sent along to Council“.

ACTION LIST

A proposed plan and project list follows:

- Employ a professional landscape architectural firm and streetlight consultant.
 - Phase I—*Plan* (\$5,000)
 - Phase I—*Design* (\$20,000)
 - Phase II--*Design* (\$10,000)
- Landscaping.
 - Add mature four-inch diameter trees (\$30,000)
 - Expand parkway prairie plantings with irrigation (\$70,000)
 - Partner with property owners to enhance signage/landscaping (\$50,000)
 - Add benches, trash receptacles, etc. (\$20,000)
 - Provide an allowance for art sculpture(s) and banners (\$10,000)

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- Removal and replacement of defective sidewalk (\$65,000).
- Add decorative streetlighting the entire length (\$120,000).
- Resurface and stripe a three lane cross section with bike lanes on Philo Road between Florida Avenue and Colorado Avenue (\$150,000).
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- Provide Arbor Division staff and equipment to maintain landscaped areas and parkways (\$20,000 annually).

The one time cost total is \$550,000, plus the annual \$20,000 cost of maintenance that will increase annually with inflation and cost-of-living adjustments.

It is difficult to get more specific with this plan until a *landscape architect* and *streetlight consultant* are employed. To expedite this process, staff plans to use *Wenk Associates*, who is already under contract with the City to provide staff a landscape plan in the coming weeks.

FISCAL IMPACTS

The following suggestions and combinations are ways the City may fund \$550,000 in improvements:

- The planned resurfacing of Main Street between Cottage Grove Avenue and Lierman Avenue be postponed one year (from 2008 to 2009) and in this deferral fund the \$150,000 resurfacing identified above. Currently this resurfacing was planned in 2012. Postponing the resurfacing of Main Street will have a ripple impact to subsequent year resurfacing projects (i.e. Anderson Street from Florida Avenue to Colorado Avenue; brick street repairs to Broadway Avenue, Indiana Avenue, and Michigan Avenue).
- Internal or external borrowing of the \$400,000. The repayment could occur by reducing Capital Improvement projects by \$40,000 - \$80,000 per year and would impact street, alley, storm sewer, and sidewalk maintenance over the next five to ten years.
- The Beverly Avenue storm sewer project (\$175,000) and the North Shore Drive street improvement (\$200,000) could be postponed two years. This action would delay subsequent projects by two years.
- Ask Menards to fund \$400,000 - \$550,000 of the City's portion of the Florida Avenue improvements, and reimburse via future city sales taxes.
- Postpone the Yankee Ridge School area streetlighting two years (\$420,000).

- Take the proceeds from the streets requested to be vacated by the Carle Medical Center.

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff seeks Council direction on how to proceed.

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WRG:klf

No Attachments.