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CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Klynstra and City Councilmembers

FROM: Tim Klunder, City Manager

SUBJECT: Endorse the Inclusion of a Roundabout at the West “Y” Intersection of Main/Washington as part of the 2019 W. Washington Reconstruction Project

DATE: March 15, 2018

CC: March 19th Council Agenda

BACKGROUND: Since 2015 in the annual Strategic Action Plan, City Council has included the examination of a roundabout at the West “Y” during the proposed 2019 reconstruction of West Washington. For the proposed 2018 Strategic Action Plan, City Council has an action step of “make a decision on whether to proceed forward with the Washington Avenue Roundabout no later than May 1, 2018. If approved, have project ready for bid by December 31, 2018 with construction in 2019.” At Monday’s meeting, I would like City Council to fulfill the first part of the action step by making a decision on the inclusion of a roundabout for the 2019 project.

Last week, March 8th, City Council held a special meeting to further learn about the concept of the roundabout from our engineers and to gather public input on the proposed project. While we received some written comments opposed to the inclusion of the roundabout and heard some verbal comments against the roundabout, overall I felt the tone of the meeting was positive and there were supportive comments about the inclusion of a roundabout in the project. The publicly cited reasons in support of the roundabout included safety (reduce speed and better sight lines at the intersection) and reduced congestion (particularly on Main going westbound onto Washington). Not coincidentally, those were the primary reasons we submitted and obtained, a safety grant (\$600,000) and economic development grant (\$350,000).

As a reminder, the total budget estimate at this time is \$2.1 million. That includes reconstruction of Washington Avenue from Franklin to the west city limits, the inclusion of a roundabout, along with storm water, sanitary and water infrastructure improvements. Funding for the project will include a \$600,000 safety grant, \$350,000 economic development grant, and \$300,000 in Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds. That would leave \$850,000 in costs to the city which would

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be funded by \$596,000 from the streets, \$69,000 from sanitary sewer, and \$185,000 from the water fund. The safety grant and economic development grant are tied to the inclusion of a roundabout with the project. The STP funds are not. In fact, if the city were to not move forward with the roundabout, the STP funds may actually increase to \$860,000 due to the fact that we would lose our safety and economic development grant. The adjustment in potential STP grant funds is related to the fact that the city must have a match on the participating project costs and only certain portions of the project are eligible participating costs. For example, engineering, purchase of right-of-way, sanitary and water related work, are not eligible grant participation costs.

The primary question I receive on the inclusion of the roundabout, and one that City Council must contemplate in your decision-making process, is why include the roundabout now when we decided to not build a roundabout in 2009? From staff's perspective, there are several reasons which make the inclusion of a roundabout a worthy concept this time.

1. The 2019 project includes the reconstruction of Washington Avenue from Franklin to the west city limits. In 2009 the roundabout was a stand-alone project.
2. While we have been planning for the reconstruction for Washington Avenue in 2019, City Council has included a reevaluation of the roundabout in the annual Strategic Action Plan since 2015. In other words, this is not a concept that we have recently developed.
3. Safety remains a concern at this intersection. This is not a new concern, but rather an ongoing concern since 2009. Our safety grant application noted 41 accidents at the intersection from 2012 – 2016. 63% of those accidents were the result of a vehicle trying to make a westbound turn from Main onto Washington. Additionally, as we heard at the public meeting on the roundabout concept, the increasing speed of traffic near the intersection continues to be a concern. Finally, with the conceptual layout of the roundabout, we would eliminate the direct parking lot movements from Captain Sundae onto Washington Avenue.
4. Congestion at the intersection is not going away. According to our economic development grant application the existing daily traffic on Washington is 4,500 vehicles. At the completion of the project it will be 5,000 vehicles and twenty years from now we project 7,000 vehicles. With the inclusion of the roundabout we project the level of service at the intersection will move from a "C" to a "B" even with the projected increase in traffic.

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5. Grant funding increase. As noted earlier, with the inclusion of a roundabout in the 2019 project we are in line to receive a \$600,000 safety grant, \$350,000 Category F economic development grant, and \$300,000 STP grant. With an estimated total project costs of \$2.1 million (\$1.85 million street related) that leaves an estimated net city cost of \$850,000 with \$596,000 of those being street funds. Our final estimate in 2009, for just the roundabout was \$711,000, with a \$400,000 grant estimate (56%). For 2019 we are in line to receive three times the grant funding with the project scope being significantly larger as it includes the reconstruction of Washington from the west city limits to Franklin. On a percentage basis, the \$1.25 million in grant funds will be 68% of the estimated \$1.85 million in street costs.
6. Consumers Power Pole. For those that were on City Council in 2009 you may recall that the issue that finalized Council's decision to not move forward with the project was the need to relocate a Consumers power pole. With the proposed design of the roundabout for 2019, our engineers believe that the Consumers power pole can remain in its current location.

Based on the findings above, city staff is recommending that we proceed with the inclusion of a roundabout in the 2019 West Washington reconstruction project. While we acknowledge that there remain some issues we need to resolve (right-of-way purchase, driveway and parking lot relocations, etc.) we believe those issues can be addressed and with the endorsement of City Council at the March 19th meeting, it would provide city staff and the engineers with time to address these issues during the design phase of the project.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that City Council endorse the inclusion of a roundabout at the intersection of W. Main and W. Washington, commonly referred to as the West "Y", in the design plans for the proposed reconstruction of W. Washington from Franklin to the west city limits in 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy R. Klunder', is written over a horizontal line.

Timothy R. Klunder, City Manager

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