



City of Homer

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Public Works

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Memorandum 20-085

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council

THROUGH: Rick Abboud, Acting City Manager

FROM: Jan Keiser, PE, JD, Director of Public Works

DATE: June 10, 2020

SUBJECT: Proposal to Fund Design for the Main Street Storm Drain and Sidewalk Project
– Pioneer Avenue North

I. **Issue:** The City-owned portion of Main Street, north of Pioneer Avenue, does not have a sidewalk.

II. **Background:**

A. The City Council identified this project as a priority issue. At its January 2020 Planning Retreat, the City Council identified, as a “*Large – 2nd priority*”, the need “*to build sidewalk for Main Street*”. This was identified in connection with the Council’s priority to “*develop a comprehensive stormwater...implementation*” plan...that provides adequate and safe drainage of storm water to protect city infrastructure and water quality...”. This is no doubt because drainage along Main Street is provided by open ditches and thus, a condition precedent to building a Main Street Sidewalk is managing the drainage.

B. The Main Street Sidewalk Facility – Pioneer Avenue North was listed in the City’s 2020-2025 Capital Improvement Plan. This plan mentioned the project “was first articulated in Homer’s 2004 Non-Motorized Transportation and Trail Plan.

C. The project will be executed in Phases. First, we want to make sure we leverage the data we will be collecting about the condition and capacity of the existing drainage system from the Drainage Management Plan Update Project. Second, a key element of the first phase of the Main Street Storm drain/Sidewalk Project will be to estimate the cost of construction, so a reliable construction budget can be programmed later. Third, we want to get the project “*shovel ready*” as quickly as possible so we are positioned to take advantage of a federal or state infrastructure stimulus program that might become available. Finally, we propose to design a

sidewalk for both sides of Main Street, but the construction may be phased so one side is built at a time, depending upon available funding.

D. Designated funding is available. The City Council, on April 24, 2017, passed Resolution 17-038, which adopted the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails Program (“HART”) Manual. The HART Manual identified a set of nine criteria for projects that may be considered for HART funding. The criteria, which would be met by the Main Street Storm Drain and Sidewalk Project include:

- Improves life, safety and traffic flow
- Corrects deficiencies of existing systems
- Completes [pedestrian] traffic circulation pattern
- Encourages economic development
- Corrects Drainage Problems
- Reduces maintenance costs

There is currently \$5,995,992.62 in the HART-Roads Fund that could be used to fund this Project. Funding for construction can be programmed later.

I propose a budget of \$98,000 to procure engineering consulting services with the necessary technical expertise. In addition, we would leverage the design work for this project with data that will be generated by the Drainage Management Plan Update Project. Funds that are not expended from either projects’ budget will remain in the HART Fund.

III. Proposal: Engage an engineering consulting firm for Planning, Design and Permitting of the Main Street Storm Drain and Sidewalk Project – Pioneer Avenue North:

- a. Review the City’s maintenance records and otherwise evaluate the condition and efficacy of the existing storm drain system in Main Street
- b. Conduct planning and pre-design work for the storm drain and sidewalk, such as survey, etc.
- c. Prepare permitting documents
- d. Conduct public outreach
- e. Prepare “shovel-ready” design package

IV. Proposed schedule:

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| • Procure/contract engineering services | July 21- August 7, 2020 |
| • Notice to Proceed | August 10, 2020 |
| • Evaluate condition of existing storm system | September 1, 2020 |
| • Conduct Pre-design work | October 15, 2020 |
| • Conduct Public Outreach | November 30, 2020 |
| • “Shovel-ready” Package Complete | December 30, 2020 |

V. Action Recommended: That the City Council pass the proposed ordinance authorizing expenditure of \$98,000 from the HART-Roads Fund for Planning, Design and Permitting of the Main Street Storm Drain and Sidewalk Project – Pioneer Avenue North.