

STAFF MEMO

DATE OF COUNCIL MEETING: February 22, 2021 / AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Jay N. Hutchison, Director of Public Works, 303-987-7901
Holly Björklund, Chief Financial Officer, 303-987-7601

Subject: **Ordinance Amending the 2021 Annual Budget and Authorizing the Expenditure of Grant Funds for the Colfax Safety Project**

SUMMARY STATEMENT: This ordinance would revise the 2021 budget to provide the \$2,500,000 match required of the City for the \$10,000,000 *Safer Main Streets Initiative* grant and authorize expenditures to improve safety and other features along Colfax Avenue between Wadsworth and Sheridan boulevards.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: West Colfax Avenue between Wadsworth and Sheridan boulevards has the highest concentration of traffic injuries and deaths in the City of Lakewood.

In December 2020, the City was notified that it was awarded a \$10,000,000 grant by the Denver Regional Council of Governments to improve safety and provide other features along this section of Colfax. The grant application included data from the six-year period between June 2014 and June 2020. During that time, there were 312 serious injuries and eight fatalities along this 1.5 mile stretch of road. Eighty-one of the serious injuries and 6 of the deaths were pedestrians or cyclists.

Three additional pedestrian deaths have occurred since mid-2020.

Development of this project has been a collaboration of multiple City departments, the Colorado Department of Transportation, Regional Transportation District, Lakewood-West Colfax Business Improvement District, and 40 West Art District. The grant application was also supported by the West Colfax Community Association, Two Creeks Neighborhood Organization, the ArtLine project team, West Corridor Transportation Management Association, Metro West Housing Solutions, FirstBank, Broad Street, and Denver Streets Partnership.

Both business owners and residents will remain closely informed of the project as it is implemented. Public input will be received for project components such as landscaping, fencing and barriers. Certain project elements, such as art will include the local community and local artists as much as feasible. Affected businesses and neighborhoods will be kept informed and involved in the implementation process to minimize negative effects of construction and to make both the process and completed project an asset to the community.

BUDGETARY IMPACTS: Previous information was that the City's match for the grant would be \$2.0 million. On February 4, the City was notified by the Colorado Department of

Transportation that a mathematical error had occurred and the required City match is \$2.5 million. An alternative would be for the \$10 million grant to be reduced to \$8 million to keep the City match at \$2.0 million, which would not be adequate funding for the project.

Funding for the \$2.5 million City match will initially come from the following sources:

- \$1,000,000 – TABOR transportation project contingency funds and savings experienced on 2020 TABOR transportation project bids.
- \$500,000 – Additional TABOR transportation funds available in 2021 and attributable to 2020 revenues.
- \$1,000,000 – Capital Improvement Fund balance.

The Capital Improvement Fund balance is intended to be replenished from savings on TABOR transportation projects or future TABOR transportation funds, if any.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval of the ordinance.

ALTERNATIVES: City Council could choose to not approve this ordinance resulting in the Colfax Safety Project grant being declined or City Council could select other funding sources for the required \$2.5 million match for the grant.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Notification has been made through the City Council agenda process.

NEXT STEPS: If the City Council approves the ordinance, the Colfax Safety Project will move forward.

ATTACHMENTS: Ordinance O-2021-5

REVIEWED BY: Kathleen E. Hodgson, City Manager
Benjamin B. Goldstein, Deputy City Manager
Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney