



CITY OF WAUKESHA

Administration

201 Delafield Street, Waukesha, WI 53188
 Tel: 262.524.3701 fax: 262.524.3899
 www.waukesha-wi.gov

Committee: Finance	Date: 5/25/2021
Common Council Item Number: ID #21-2352	6/1/2021
Submitted By: Fred Abadi, Director of Public Works	City Administrator Approval: Kevin Lahner, City Administrator
Finance Department Review: Bridget Souffrant, Finance Director	City Attorney's Office Review: Brian Running, City Attorney
Subject: Review and act on amending the 2021 CIP Budget for the burying of overhead utility facilities along the W. St. Paul Avenue corridor (Mountain Avenue to Madison Street) in the amount of \$750,000.00	

Details:

In 2022, W. St. Paul Avenue from Mountain Avenue to Madison Street will be reconstructed as part of WisDOT's Surface Transportation Program - Urban (STP-U). A review of the existing utility facilities was completed as part of the project's on-going design phase, and with the scope of work upcoming for the roadway, additional investigation was completed with private utility owners for the feasibility of burying their existing facilities underground in conjunction with the roadway reconstruction.

There are currently aerial/overhead lines on large utility poles along the south/east side of W. St. Paul Avenue that hold electric and communication type facilities. These large poles are unsightly and impact the overall aesthetic of a major roadway corridor into the downtown area. With the roadway project scheduled for 2022, and a private development planned within the same corridor limits, the best opportunity for feasibly placing the utilities underground would be in coordination with the roadway reconstruction. The feasibility of burying these overhead utilities has been brought up previously in the past via multiple stakeholders, city staff and elected officials.

Given the upcoming scope of roadway work, Engineering staff reached out to We Energies (utility pole owners) for a cost estimate to place utility facilities underground in lieu of keeping their placement aerial. We Energies provided a total cost estimate of \$750,000.00 to place their facilities underground. The planned development along W. St. Paul Avenue will be providing separate funding at their expense to bury the overhead utility facilities along the frontage of the development property. (The estimate from We Energies, \$750,000.00, is the cost for placing facilities underground outside of the planned development property)

Amending the 2021 CIP budget would allow for We Energies to move forward with design and construction of their new underground facilities prior to the roadway project commencing work. If the existing utility facilities are not placed underground at this time, the feasibility for this occurring in the future is greatly impacted, as a newly reconstructed section of roadway would have to be disturbed for this work to occur.

Options & Alternatives:

Option 1 - Recommend budget amendment for the burying of utility facilities along W. St. Paul Avenue from Mountain Avenue to Madison Street.

Option 2 - Not recommending the budget amendment approval, and keeping the utility facilities along W. St. Paul Avenue from Mountain Avenue to Madison Street aerial on poles within the R/W.



Financial Remarks:

The immediate expenses for the burial of the overhead utility facilities will be funded with carryover / project savings from the Major and Minor Street reconstruction accounts. The accounts will be reimbursed with 2022 borrowing in a future reimbursement resolution.

Transfer \$400,000 from Major (2004.68290) and \$350,000 from Minor (2010.68290) to Account 0002.68295

Expense: 0002.68295 - \$750,000

Executive Recommendation:

Recommend amending the 2021 CIP Budget for the burying of overhead utility facilities along the W. St. Paul Avenue corridor (Mountain Avenue to Madison Street) in the amount of \$750,000.00.

