



City of Gainesville Agenda Item Report

File Number: 2023-1076

Agenda Date: November 16, 2023

Department: Transportation

Title: 2023-1076 Resolution for Grant Agreement for the University Avenue Complete Streets Project (B)

Department: Transportation

Description: Request for the City Commission to adopt a Resolution to enter into a grant agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for the University Avenue Complete Streets Project from NW 34th Street to SE 31st Street.

Fiscal Note: Department: Transportation

Description: Request for the City Commission to adopt a Resolution to enter into a grant agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for the University Avenue Complete Streets Project from NW 34th Street to SE 31st Street.

Fiscal Note: Florida Department of Transportation is providing approximately \$1.5 million in funding for the design phase of the University Avenue Complete Streets Project. The City will be required to front the design cost and will be reimbursed for expenditures up to aforementioned amount. The City will be responsible for any cost or staff time above this amount in the event Florida Department of Transportation is unable to provide additional funding. This funding is in addition to the \$8 million grant received from the U.S. Department of Transportation for the construction phase through the Safe Streets and Roads for All Program and its associated \$2 million local match.

Explanation: The City of Gainesville is committed to expediting a plan to increase safety in areas of high pedestrian volume, in particular University Avenue and W 13th Street.

On October 21, 2021, and April 7, 2022, the City Commission approved preferred concepts for the transformation of both corridors into complete streets (Agenda Items #210418 and #210986 respectively) following an extensive evaluation of existing conditions, standards, and needs, building on findings of previous studies, and also based on stakeholders input. Overall the study encompassed University Avenue from NW 34th Street to SE 31st Street, and W 13th Street from NW 8th Avenue to SW 16th Avenue.

On May 5, 2022, the City Commission awarded a contract to Kimley-Horn and Associates (Agenda #211069) to conduct the required Project Development and Environment Study (PD&E) advancing the project through federal and state approval processes in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The PD&E phase is on schedule to be completed Spring 2024.

In September 2022, the City applied for the *Safe Streets and Roads for All* implementation grant for the University Avenue corridor, seeking to advance the project via resurfacing and restriping as an initial phase given funding constraints. The City's application was one of three successful applications in Florida. The award amount is \$8,000,000 requiring a local match of \$2,000,000 (Agenda #2023-748).

In September 2023, the City was notified by the Florida Department of Transportation of additional funding availability for the design phase which is expected to commence Summer 2024, (following the PD&E approval) and is expected to be completed Fall 2025. The actual limits of construction will be determined based on funding limitations and incorporating elements that will provide the greatest safety benefit.

Strategic Connection:

- Goal 1: Equitable Community
- Goal 2: More Sustainable Community
- Goal 3: A Great Place to Live and Experience
- Goal 4: Resilient Local Economy
- Goal 5: "Best in Class" Neighbor Services

Recommendation: 1) City Commission adopt the proposed Resolution and 2) authorize the City Manager or designee to execute all agreements, and any other necessary documents, on or behalf of the City, with the Florida Department of Transportation for SR 26 (University Avenue) Complete Streets Project, subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form and legality.