

To: Transportation Committee
From: Sotoria Montanari, LOTCIP Program Manager
Date: January 13, 2023
Cc: Rob Aloise, CRCOG Director of Planning
Cara Radzins, CRCOG Transportation Deputy
Rob Trottier, P.E., City Engineer, New Britain

Subject: LOTCIP Funding Increase – New Britain John Downey Drive Safety Improvements (L088-0004)

A Transportation Committee meeting will take place at 12 noon on Monday, January 23, 2023. At the meeting, we will be discussing and acting on the following:

New Britain John Downey Safety Improvements Project L088-0004

The City of New Britain is requesting a LOTCIP funding increase of \$2,509,600 from \$2,990,400 to the Transportation Committee approved capped amount of \$5,500,000. The preliminary design engineer's estimate is \$5,674,918, and the City is proposing to fund the amount exceeding the cap, currently estimated at \$174,918. The project was approved under the 2020 Solicitation for \$2,990,400, was issued a Commitment to Fund letter for \$3,249,600, and has progressed to the Preliminary Design Phase. Additionally, the City is returning approximately \$550,000 to the LOTCIP program from savings of a previous project, Phase VI – East Main Street LOTCIP Project L088-0002.

The recently observed cost increase is the result of the inclusion of additional safety improvements and substantially higher unit prices due to inflation. During plan advancement and in consideration of issues raised at a public outreach session, the City decided to incorporate three notable safety-related design changes. First, an additional approach lane was needed to alleviate long westbound queuing on South Street at John Downey Drive during peak periods. This resulted in the need for a \$350,000 signal replacement since the age of the current signal prevented its modification. Secondly, it was determined that the City's initial proposed road diet, going from 48 feet to 26 feet, was too aggressive and a width of 32 feet was determined to be more appropriate. This additional 6 feet of roadway width addressed safety concerns of passenger vehicles navigating through an industrial area with high truck volumes and allowed for 5-foot bike lanes in each direction. The 26% increase in road width resulted in additional HMA for milling and paving in the amount of \$205,667. Finally, the City added signal modifications to the Newington Avenue at John Downey Drive intersection since pedestrian facilities need to be upgraded to be in compliance with the American Disabilities Act. The State-owned signal was expected to be upgraded by the State. However, their milling and paving was completed shortly before the application was submitted, and therefore the upgrades fell to the City, adding additional costs of \$60,000.



In addition to the three design changes above, unit prices increased. Specifically, the granite curbing increased from \$40 per LF to \$70 per LF, which created a \$522,370 increase. Additionally, the multi-use trail costs were underestimated in the application by \$265,582. Unit cost increases on other general items contributed to an additional \$377,630, and increases based on percentage-based items amount to \$742,243.

To incorporate costs associated with additional safety improvements and substantially higher unit prices due to inflation, staff recommends Committee approval of an additional \$2,509,600 of LOTCIP funding for the New Britain Safety Improvements Project (L088-0004), increasing the funding approval from \$2,990,400 to \$5,500,000, capping the project funds at \$5,500,000, with an estimated City cost-share of \$174,918 and returning approximately \$550,000 to the LOTCIP program from a previously constructed project.