

## 02-23-2022 Town Council Meeting Responses to Council Questions

### **ITEM #7: Approve FY 2021 Excess Fund Balance Appropriation**

#### **Council Question:**

For the 14 town-maintained streets totaling 3.4 miles rated poor to very poor condition proposed to be resurfaced/repared, how many of them could include bike/ped improvements as part of that effort? Could we review the overall streets need list and prioritize any that either could include bike/ped improvements (rather than resurfacing only) and/or streets that have been identified as having safety issues that need to be addressed?

#### **Staff Response:**

*Based on cost estimating we believe that the increase in proposed funding will permit us to resurface 16 streets or portions of streets totaling 3.61 miles. Painted curb extension with flexible bollards were recently installed at an intersection for two of the streets and they will be evaluated and reinstalled after resurfacing, a new marked crosswalk will be installed on two of the proposed streets, and one street will be evaluated for a marked in-street pedestrian way. In addition, funds have been identified to install bike lanes on N. Elliott Road, and pilot further in-street pedestrian ways along a section of Cleland Drive and Honeysuckle Road.*

#### **Additional Information:**

*The recommended list of streets to be repaved with the excess funding is based on the five-year street resurfacing master list developed from the Town's biannual third-party Pavement Condition Survey. Staff factored in the roadway condition, the location of the streets from each other to help minimize mobilization cost, and the estimated cost of each street to determine the most cost-efficient way to address as many streets as possible with the excess funding.*

*Multimodal streets and streets scheduled for bike and pedestrian improvements are given higher priority. Four streets not included on the proposed list which may accommodate bike lanes are currently under design review. These four streets are currently programmed to be part of the FY23 street resurfacing program. Several others are pending due to scheduling conflicts with utility improvements projects and/or the completion of major development projects.*

*It's worth noting that bicycle and pedestrian marking improvements were completed on streets resurfaced along Umstead Drive, Europa Drive and Country Club Road in the current fiscal year, and bike lanes are planned to be installed on two state-maintained streets – West Franklin Street and Ephesus Church Road. In addition, two other streets were milled and resurfaced following streetscape improvements on a section of Robinson Street, and Graham Street.*

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**Council Question:**

“Property acquisition for affordable housing” is cited as a potential usage. Has property been identified and how proactive is staff in seeking out such acquisition opportunities?

**Council Question:**

Under Affordable Housing, property acquisition is listed as one of the uses. What properties, if any, are we currently contemplating acquiring?

**Staff Response:**

*Funding could be used to support the acquisition on North Graham St., which Community Home Trust (CHT) applied for funding from the AHDR during the last RFP process earlier this fiscal year. Due to limited funding available, this project was not awarded funding and CHT has not yet received funding from another source. Funding could also be used to support the acquisition of other properties should additional opportunities become available before the end of this fiscal year.*

**Council Question:**

There have been discussions about making improvements to Peace and Justice Plaza. Could any such improvements be incorporated into the work contemplated?

**Staff Response:**

*The current scope of work for the Post Office/Courthouse building includes replacing the existing flat roof, structural and exterior repairs to the cupola, exterior wood trim repairs, preparing and painting all of the exterior wood trim, and pressure washing and repairing the masonry work, including cleaning the limestone. Due to the historical nature of the building and the specialization needed to do this work, staff believes using a different vendor to perform the desired improvements to the Peace and Justice Plaza/Marker after the exterior repairs to the building are completed will cost less and produce a better result.*

*A feasibility study and a community engagement/visioning process would help inform initial design work for the plaza and these steps have not yet been funded.*