CITY OF LA CROSSE

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LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT FOR COUNCIL

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Caption: Resolution appropriating Tax Incremental District (TID) 11 funds for the design and construction of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) across Hwy 14/61 as part of the Wagon Wheel Trail Project.

Staff/Department Responsible for Legislation

Tim Acklin, Planning & Development Department

Requestor of Legislation

Tim Acklin, Planning & Development Department

Location, if applicable

See attached Map

Summary/Purpose

Resolution approving the transfer of funding from TID 11 for the design & construction of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) along Hwy 14/61 as part of the Wagon Wheel Trail Project. Originally, the design included the removal of the an existing pedestrian curb ramp at the intersection of Pettibone Drive and Hwy 14/61 as there is a safer alternative (RRFB) to the north. WisDOT did not agree with the removal of the curb ramp due to the distance to the RRFB. By statute, because there is sidewalk along S Pettibone Drive and it intersects Hwy 14/61 and there is sidewalk on the other side, there must be a crosswalk and equal access should be considered. The alternative was to add an additional mid-block RRFB crossing that would provide an additional safer crossing alternative and aid in reducing pedestrian detour length. Adding an RRFB was the preferred solution by staff, especially with the anticipated redevelopment of the nearby parcels.

Background

The Wagon Wheel Trail (separated bike/ped bridge and improvements to existing sidewalk) will connect the City of La Crosse to La Crescent via a shared bicycle and pedestrian path and separated bridge. The trail has been identified in several area plans as a high priority to link La Crosse's bicycle and pedestrian network with La Crescent's. The City applied for a grant from the WisDOT Transportation Alternatives Grant Program and was awarded approximately $4million for construction. Construction will occur in 2026/2027. Since site and bridge design began in 2023 additional funding is needed for environmental and endangered species surveys and species removal that we were unable to identify until after the project had started. Additionally, since 2023 building material/construction costs have also increased. Funding was also requested in the 2024, 2025, 2026, & 2027 CIP Budgets.

Fiscal Impact

Utilizing funding from TID 17 will reduce requests for GO funding from the Capital Budget.

Staff Recommendation

APPROVAL- Planning staff is consistently working on applying for grants to minimize the fiscal impact to the City. Currently the city has $4million in grant funding for the project.