



MEETING OF OCTOBER 17, 2023

TO: Mayor Jordan and City Council
THRU: Chris Brown, Public Works Director
Susan Norton, Chief of Staff
FROM: Matt Mihalevich, Active Transportation Manager
DATE:
SUBJECT: ARDOT Cost Share for widened sidewalks along Wedington Drive

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of a payment to the Arkansas Department of Transportation in the amount of \$45,437 with \$25,000 in contingency to construct a 10 foot wide shared use paved trail instead of a proposed 5-foot wide sidewalk along the north side of Wedington Dr. (Hwy. 16/112 Spur) from Steamboat Drive to Salem Road and approval of a budget adjustment.

BACKGROUND:

The city has worked with the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) over the past 7 years to include a shared-use paved trail in association with the interchange improvements at I-49 and Wedington Drive. In 2017, the City was awarded a Transportation Alternatives Program grant in the amount of \$332,000 to fund the costs directly associated with widening the new bridge over I-49 to accommodate a shared use path.

In May of 2021, the City agreed to pay \$199,940 to ARDOT by resolution 137-21 for the cost to widen 5-foot-wide sidewalks to a 10-foot-wide trail extending out from the bridge over I-49 west to Steamboat Dr. and east to the north bound I-49 on Ramp. In September of 2022, another cost share was approved in the amount of \$48,511.28 to extend the 10-foot-wide sidewalk east to Futrall Dr.

With these previous approvals, a 10-foot-wide shared use trail will be constructed along the north side of Wedington Dr. between Steamboat Dr. and Futrall Dr. This proposed cost share will extend the shared use paved trail west from Steamboat Dr. to Salem Rd.

DISCUSSION:

ARDOT has agreed to process a change order to the construction contract for the installation of a 10-foot-wide shared-use paved trail in lieu of the planned 5-foot sidewalk. Also included in the proposal is expanding the green space separation from the planned 3 feet to 5 feet of green space to create additional buffer space from the busy highway. This is the most cost-efficient time to expand the sidewalk and construct the shared-use trail as shown on the Active Transportation Plan.

BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:

Funding in the amount of \$45,437 and \$25,000 in contingency has been allocated through the 2022 trails bond program.

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ATTACHMENTS: SRF (#3), BA (#4)