



# City of Fayetteville, Arkansas

113 West Mountain Street  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
(479) 575-8323

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 2024-1722

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### **Approval of an Agreement with the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT) to Complete Improvements to the I-49 and Martin Luther King Dr. Blvd Interchange**

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ARDOT TO FORMALIZE THE CITY'S PARTNERSHIP ON THE I-49 AND HIGHWAY 62 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

**WHEREAS**, ARDOT is currently planning an extensive redesign of the I-49 and Highway 62 Interchange; and

**WHEREAS**, staff requested that ARDOT evaluate the option of adding an overpass at 15<sup>th</sup> Street instead of extending Shiloh Drive to Cato Springs Road; and

**WHEREAS**, the overpass option provides better access to adjacent properties and essentially adds a connection from 15<sup>th</sup> Street to I-49.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS:**

Section 1: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby authorizes Mayor Jordan to sign an Agreement of Understanding with ARDOT to formalize the City's partnership on the I-49 and Highway 62 Interchange Improvements Project. A copy of the Agreement of Understanding is attached to this Resolution.



**MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

**TO:** Mayor Jordan and City Council

**THRU:** Chris Brown, Public Works Director  
Susan Norton, Chief of Staff

**FROM:** Matt Mihalevich, Active Transportation Manager

**SUBJECT:** **Approval of an Agreement with the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT) to Complete Improvements to the I-49 and Martin Luther King Dr. Blvd Interchange**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of an agreement with ARDOT to formalize the City's partnership on the I-49 and Highway 62 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd) interchange.

**BACKGROUND:**

ArDOT is currently planning an extensive redesign of the I-49 and Highway 62 (MLK Jr. Blvd.) Interchange. With the design proposed by ArDOT, Shiloh Drive south of Highway 62 was to be converted to one-way south bound. Shiloh Drive was proposed to be extended south to Cato Springs Road to provide an outlet for the properties served by Shiloh Drive.

City of Fayetteville Engineering Staff requested that ArDOT evaluate the option of adding an overpass at 15<sup>th</sup> Street instead of extending Shiloh to Cato Springs Road. The overpass option provides better access to adjacent properties and essentially adds a connection from 15<sup>th</sup> Street to I-49. The City provided a study of the proposed overpass option, and determined the additional cost of the City preferred option to be \$1.5 million; ArDOT agreed to revise plans provided the city pay the additional cost of \$1.5 million; the Council approved resolution 298-20 expressing the intention of the City to partner with ARDOT and pay for the additional cost.

**DISCUSSION:**

Since that resolution, City and ArDOT staff have worked through many design details, negotiated additional cost sharing proposals, arranged for replacement of tree preservation areas, and pursued federal aid funding to assist in paying for various aspects of the project. All of these activities have been condensed into the proposed Agreement of Understanding between the City and ArDOT. Major elements of the Agreement include:

- Inclusion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Street overpass in the project; the City cost of this addition is \$1.5 million. The City has secured \$1.5 million federal aid funding for this item so there is no additional cost to the City.
- Inclusion of multiple pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the project, at no cost to the City:
  - Construction of a 14-foot-wide by 10-foot-tall tunnel for the Town Branch Trail
  - Construction of a 10-foot-wide shared use path with a 6-foot offset along the south side of Highway 62 from the western termini of the Project at South Leflar Way to Futrall Drive,

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including underneath the Interstate 49 overpass bridges

- Implementation of a one-car length offset for the shared use path across the Walmart driveway
  
- Inclusion of further pedestrian and bicycle facilities, with the City paying actual cost for the elements (The City has \$300,000 in federal aid funding to pay for these costs)
  - Construction of a 10-foot-wide shared use path with a 6-foot offset on the east side of Futrall Drive starting where the 10-foot trail would stop under Interstate 49 overpass bridges, proceeding south to the north side of Best Friend Way; and
  - Construction of a 12-foot-wide shared use path with a 10-foot offset on the west side of Shiloh Drive from Highway 62 to the trail at Northwest Health Emergency Department; and
  - Construction of an embankment and 12-foot-wide shared use path with a 10-foot offset along the west side of Shiloh Drive between Northwest Health Emergency Department and the shared use path being constructed as part of the 15th Street Overpass roundabouts
  
- Vacation of a tree preservation on the east side of I-49 south of Hwy 62, and a corresponding replacement dedication of an easement on the west side of I-49 south of Hwy 62.
  
- The City will accept ownership of the 15<sup>th</sup> Street overpass and the frontage roads between Hwy 62 and 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

ArDOT plans to proceed with clearing of the project area this spring, and must complete the clearing prior to March 15<sup>th</sup> to meet the requirements of their environmental approval for protection of bat species. Therefore, an expedited review of this agreement is necessary.

**BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:**

No additional funding is anticipated beyond the identified federal aid of \$1.8 million.

**ATTACHMENTS:** SRF (#3), Job 040846 Agreement (#4), 040846DesignMLK - Hwy 62 - Trail concept 2-7-24 - Flattened (#5)

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