



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
**PUBLIC
WORKS**

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To: Ande Banks, City Manager
From: Thomas Hartman, PE, PMP, LEED AP, Director of Public Works
Date: February 13, 2024
Re: ARPA Pedestrian Project Update

Summary:

The Public Works Department will provide the City Council with an update on the proposed ARPA funded Sterling Street Sidewalk Project and provide potential alternative locations for pedestrian improvements within the Northeast Neighborhood.

Background:

In December 2022 City Council finalized the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending plan, which included \$566,000 for the construction of sidewalks along Sterling Street. Following this finalization, the Public Works Department began to develop this project in order to meet the ARPA spending timeframes. The design progressed to the 60% level and an open house was held at Lucy Simms to share the project. The design included the need for the City to obtain additional right of way (ROW) and temporary construction easements (TCE). Initial contact was made with property owners along the project corridor and unfortunately, we received notice that some of the property owners were not in favor of the project and would not participate in ROW or TCE acquisition. Just compensation would have been provided for all ROW and TCE associated with this project.

As a result of this information, Public Works in consultation with the City Manager's Office determined that due to the ARPA spending timeframes it was best to remove this project from the ARPA funding plan and seek to reallocate those funds to a new pedestrian project within the Northeast Neighborhood.

The Northeast Neighborhood was assessed by Public Works to identify existing gaps in sidewalks and paths. The objective was to determine whether the available funding could be utilized to close any of these gaps. It's important to highlight that in accordance with ARPA spending guidelines, a contract must be in place by December 31, 2024, and all funds must be expended by December 31, 2026. Considering these guidelines and the recognized sidewalk gaps, the list below outlines potential projects. These projects are feasible due to the Harrisonburg Rockingham Housing Authority (HRHA) being the adjoining property owner for each, providing confidence that the City can secure any necessary areas for construction, especially considering HRHA's ownership of properties where ROW or TCE may be required.

- Hill Street – From the northeast corner of the Hill Street and Gay Street intersection to the existing sidewalk along the eastside of Hill Street. The estimated cost is \$100,000.
- Sterling Street – From the northwest corner of the Sterling Street and Gay Street intersection to the existing sidewalk along the westside of Sterling Street. The estimated cost is \$110,000.
- Kelley Street to Ralph Sampson Park – Connect the existing sidewalk along the northside of Kelley Street just east of Lincoln Circle, through HRHA property to connect to the existing walking path in Ralph Sampson Park. The estimated cost is \$250,000.

Public Works also reviewed a sidewalk gap along the northside of Kelley Street between Simms Avenue and Hill Street. However, upon evaluation it was determined that due to the need to obtain additional ROW and TCE, as well as the presence of retaining walls that would need to be modified, it is not feasible to include this segment in this potential project list due to the ARPA funding constraints.

Key Issues:

N/A

Environmental Impact:

N/A

Fiscal Impact:

Project(s) would be funded with ARPA funds.

Prior Actions:

N/A

Alternatives:

N/A

Community Engagement:

N/A

Recommendation:

N/A

Attachments:

1. Presentation

Review: