

Office of the City Engineer

John C. Rooney, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/
City Engineer



City Hall
730 Washington Avenue
Racine, WI 53403
262.636.9191
Fax: 262.636.9545

April 4, 2018

Legistar Item: 0356-18

To: Alderman Terry McCarthy, Chairman
Public Works and Services Committee

From: John Rooney *JCR*
Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/City Engineer

Re: Revised WisDOT 2017 – 2022 Local Bridge Program Application for the West 6th St. Bridge

I met with Mayor Mason on Tuesday April 3, 2018 to discuss the revised application requested by WisDOT for the WisDOT 2017-22 Local Bridge Program. The application has been changed to reflect agreed upon 100% Non-Participating Cost to the City of Racine for: structural cost for additional 13' of bridge span, approach costs for lowering of Horlick Drive to achieve 14' - 9" of clearance with lengthened road work, and parallel off-street multi-use pathway along Horlick Drive. The total bridge cost of \$4,851,754 remains the same as in our original application of July 6, 2017. The expectation is this application will be considered for funding under Trans 213, which provides 80% federal funding and 20% local funding on all Non-Participating items.

WisDOT considers Horlick Drive an unnecessary part of the bridge as it is a park road. This park road doesn't meet federal guidelines for funding as it relates to the bridge for: functional obsolescence (substandard vertical clearance for trucks), or necessary widening of Horlick Drive to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclist using this underpass as part of the long established Root River Pathway trail system.

The net additional cost to the City of Racine is approximately \$152,000. The revised application calls for federal funding in the amount of \$3,689,403 and local funding in the amount of \$1,162,351. This results in a funding split of: fed 76%/local 24%.

The existing historic bridge, designed by Charles Whitney and built in 1929, has lasted nearly 100 years. This new bridge has been designed with a tremendous amount of public input by: citizens, Preservation Racine, and the Racine Landmarks Preservation Committee; all attending various PIM's and a design charrette. This new design respects the historic significance of the Charles Whitney Bridge, as well as complying with the NEPA process for preservation of culturally significant items such as: the Jens Jenson establish park system, historic structures and settings, as well as tribal depositories; all within the APE (area of potential effect).

The additional costs of \$152,000 may seem like quite an addition, but if the useful life of this bridge is another 100 years, then future generations of Racine will have a bridge that respects the past and is safer for all users of the road and park. This added local share amounts to another \$1,500 annually spread over the life of this very important part of public works infrastructure and cultural asset to the city.

If the Committee agrees, the appropriate action would be to authorize the City Engineer to re-apply for the grant. The funding for this project will be appropriated in the 2019-2028 CIP.

JCR:njp

Cc: Mayor Cory Mason