

Applicant Information

Application Number: 2018034
 Section: 01
 Applicant Agency: City/Village
 Grant Applicant: City of Rochester Hills

Project Description

Project Name: Auburn Road Streetscape
 Type of Work: Pedestrian sidewalk, improved crosswalks, traffic calming, landscape/streetscape
 Length (miles): 0.5

Project Location

County: Oakland
 Region: Metro
 Prosperity Region: Detroit Metro Prosperity Region
 City/Village or Township: Rochester Hills
 Zip Code: 48307
 Route/Street Name/Facility Name: Auburn Road
 Project Limits (use nearest cross streets): Culbertson to Hessel
 Physical Reference: 625105
 MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization): Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
 TMA (Transportation Management Area): Detroit

Legislative Information

State Senator: Marty Knollenberg (13)
 State Representative: Michael Webber (45)
 U.S. Representative: Mike Bishop (8)

Project Category

Facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, including traffic calming and other safety improvements

Contacts

Prefix Contact Type	Name Title	Phone Organization	Cell	Email
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Mr Contact Person	Paul Davis City Engineer	(248) 656-4640 City of Rochester Hills		davis@rochesterhills.org
Mayor Chief Administrative Official	Bryan Barnett Mayor	(248) 656-4664 City of Rochester Hills		barnett@rochesterhills.org
Mr Chief Elected Official	Mark Tisdell Council President	(248) 841-2644 City of Rochester Hills		tisdell@rochesterhills.org

Narrative

1. In a brief narrative, describe the proposed work and how the project will benefit the affected community(ies):

The easternmost section of Auburn Road, formerly known as "Olde Towne", is one of the oldest commercial areas of Rochester Hills. While commercial development/redevelopment has grown throughout the rest of the City, this district has remained relatively consistent in its "old town" character. Residents and other stakeholders mostly identify the area as the "Brooklands", the area's historic subdivision name, which the City plans to use in branding the area. The City of Rochester Hills does not have a "traditional" downtown area, and this Brooklands district of Auburn Road serves as the commercial hub for the residents in that area of the City. Some features of the existing area include:

- The corridor is vehicle-focused and lacks delineation of pedestrian space, parking lanes, and drive access.
- There are varying degrees of sidewalk along the corridor, with some areas having narrow, poorly-located walks and some areas having no sidewalk. What sidewalk does exist is hard to locate and uncomfortable to use due to its size, location near active traffic, and conflicts with parking/access points.
- There are pedestrians and cyclists that traverse the corridor, but they are forced to do so in non-designated areas.
- The parking conditions within the ROW is haphazard. There are limited delineated parking spaces and much of the corridor is one large access point without curb/gutter or designated access points.
- There is uncontrolled access to Auburn Road, with almost no access management present. It is difficult for pedestrians to navigate the haphazard traffic movements that occur anywhere along the corridor.
- There are no marked pedestrian crossings of Auburn Road at any intersections, and these crossings are lengthy with no areas of pedestrian refuge.
- Due to the nature of the roadway, traffic speeds are higher than desired, discouraging pedestrian activity and crossings.
- Reuther Middle School is located at the west end of the district, and a significant amount of school walker traverse the corridor from the adjacent neighborhoods.

The proposed project is a component of a larger overall project along the Auburn Road Corridor (Culbertson to Hessel) to transform the Brooklands District into a vibrant area. The project involves the redesign of Auburn Road into a safe and attractive place for vehicles and pedestrians. As illustrated in the attachments, the project involves reconstruction of Auburn Road, introduction of a median, construction of two roundabouts, creation of on-street parallel parking, curb extensions and improved pedestrian crossings at intersections, construction of wide sidewalks for pedestrian and bicycle access through the corridor, streetscape enhancements, lighting additions, drainage improvements, and elimination of uncontrolled parking/access.

The specific pedestrian/streetscape improvements being submitted for funding through the TAP program include:

- Concrete sidewalk along both sides of Auburn Road
- Landscape plantings (trees and ornamental plantings) along street side and median landscape areas.
- Brick paver enhancements between the parking and landscape areas.
- Furnishings, including benches, litter/recycling receptacles, bike racks.

2. Describe how this project is competitive for funding:

This project is competitive for TAP funding for a number of reasons. First, the requested funding will be utilized as part of approximately \$6.5 million project that the City of Rochester Hills is undertaking to transform the Auburn Road Corridor into a vibrant, walkable, and safe district. A critical focus of the overall project is pedestrian access and safety. The road reconstruction will employ curb extensions, roundabouts, curbed median, on-street parking, and landscape enhancements to calm traffic, reduce travel speeds, and improve pedestrian safety and comfort. The existing uncontrolled access and parking along the corridor will be eliminated to define areas for pedestrian travel and crossings.

Secondly, this project is a result of a significant planning process that the City has completed over the past several years. Extensive stakeholder engagement and input was obtained throughout the development of the Auburn Road Corridor Plan and EPE Study, and the project is supported by local residents, business owners, and City officials. The overall project intends to attract people to the Brooklands commercial district and enhance the identity, history, and brand of the area.

Third, the project will provide much-needed facilities for pedestrian and bicycles in this area. The wide sidewalks will provide continuous access through the corridor to local businesses, connect to adjacent neighborhoods, as well as for student walkers to the adjacent Middle School. Other improvements include benches, bike racks, and other furnishings to enhance the area and make it more inviting and accommodating. Also, lighting will be installed throughout the corridor to improve safety and comfort of the area.

Additionally, the project incorporates landscaping and other streetscape elements to improve the aesthetic appeal of the area. These areas will replace the stark, "sea of pavement" feel that currently exists in the corridor and make it more inviting for people to utilize. These elements will also help to define the Brooklands district and create a sense of place along Auburn Road.

Documents

Document	Document Type	Description	User	Date
1	Other	Auburn Road Corridor Plan	juidicit4426	03/01/2018
2	Map	Project Location Map	juidicit4426	03/01/2018
3	Photograph	Project Photographs	juidicit4426	03/01/2018
4	Cross Section	Typical Cross Section	juidicit4426	03/01/2018
5	Plan View Sketch	Concept Plan Sketch	juidicit4426	03/01/2018
6	Engineer's Estimate	Preliminary Cost Estimate - Overall Project	juidicit4426	03/01/2018

Budget

Participating Items of Work

Item of Work	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Item Cost
Planting Mix, 6 inch depth	460.00	CYD	\$50.00	\$23,000.00
Watering and Cultivating, Second Season	1.00	LS	\$39,000.00	\$39,000.00
Sidewalk, Conc, 4 inch	81,305.00	SFT	\$3.75	\$304,893.75
Ornamental Plantings	24,300.00	SFT	\$5.00	\$121,500.00
Bike Rack	7.00	EA	\$1,500.00	\$10,500.00
Site Preparation	1.00	LS	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00
Watering and Cultivating, First Season	1.00	LS	\$31,000.00	\$31,000.00
Brick Pavers	9,700.00	SFT	\$14.00	\$135,800.00
Litter Receptacle	15.00	EA	\$1,500.00	\$22,500.00
Mobilization	1.00	LS	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00
Hardwood Bark Mulch, 4 inch depth	300.00	CYD	\$50.00	\$15,000.00
Bench, 6 foot	15.00	EA	\$2,500.00	\$37,500.00
Deciduous Tree, 3 inch Caliper	125.00	EA	\$525.00	\$65,625.00
Recycle Receptacle	15.00	EA	\$2,000.00	\$30,000.00
Total:				\$981,318.75

Non-Participating Items of Work:

Item of Work	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Item Cost
Irrigation	24,300.00	SFT	\$2.00	\$48,600.00
Irrigation Sleeves	3,100.00	FT	\$15.00	\$46,500.00
Total:				\$95,100.00

Participating Match Details:

Source	Type	Amount	Match Percentage
City of Rochester Hills Funds	City/Village	\$500,000.00	50.95%
Total:		\$500,000.00	50.95%

Source of Non-Participating Funds: City of Rochester Hills funds are being allocated to the overall Auburn Road project as part of the City's Capital Improvement budget process.

Project Summary

Participating Items:	\$981,318.75
Non-Participating Items:	\$95,100.00
Project Total:	\$1,076,418.75

Request Summary

Grant Funds:	\$481,318.75	49.05%
Match:	\$500,000.00	50.95%
Participating Costs:	\$981,318.75	100.00%

Schedule

Project Type: Construction

<u>Milestones</u>	<u>Date</u>
1. Plans and Estimate Complete:	12/14/2018
2. Grade Inspection Package submitted to MDOT:	10/08/2018
3. Right of Way Certified:	12/14/2018
4. Matching Funds Certified:	10/22/2018
5. Project Listed on Approved TIP/STIP:	11/30/2018
6. Advertisement Start Date:	02/01/2019
7. Construction Letting Date:	03/01/2019
8. Construction Start Date:	04/15/2019
9. Construction End Date:	06/15/2020

Will this project be paired with any future construction projects? Yes

1. Project with MDOT Management? Yes

If yes, provide the project description (type of work, dates of the proposed construction, job number, etc.)

Auburn Road from Culbertson to Hessel will be reconstructed in 2019. The City of Rochester Hills is completing the project through the MDOT Local Agency Program, and the project will be bid/administered by MDOT LAP. The project involves reconstruction of the roadway, intersection improvements including two round-a-bouts, creation of on-street parallel parking areas, median construction, and drainage improvements.

The project will be done concurrently with the other project.

The project will be done subsequent to the other project.

2. Project with Local Management? Yes

If yes, provide the project description (type of work, dates of the proposed construction, job number, etc.)

Alleyway and side street improvements adjacent to the Auburn Road corridor from Culbertson to Hessel. This project will be completed by the City of Rochester Hills as part of the overall corridor project to improve business access, parking, and pedestrian safety. The project involves paving and construction of alleyways behind the businesses both north and south of Auburn Road, drainage improvements, parking lot access construction, parking lot reconfigurations, and sidewalk/pedestrian connections.

The project will be done concurrently with the other project.

The project will be done subsequent to the other project.

Additional comments about the project schedule:

Environment/Community

1. Check all that apply:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROW/Construction Access Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational Lands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Historic Preservation Office Clearance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inland Lakes or Streams Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Removal | <input type="checkbox"/> Contaminated Sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Endangered Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other SESC Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floodplains Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Zone | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other County Drain Permit |

Please describe:

The overall Auburn Road project will be administered through the MDOT Local Agency Program. The project will involve coordination with other agency projects and ROW/signing permits will be required from adjacent jurisdictions (RCOC & Shelby Twp) for traffic control measures within their respective ROW's. Other anticipated permits required for the project include a soil erosion and sedimentation control permit (OCWRC) and storm drainage outlet permit (OCWRC). In addition, review by SHPO will be required for the project.

2a. Describe the anticipated impact of the project on adjacent property owners, your efforts to inform them of the project, and responses to these efforts:

Given the magnitude and transformative character of the project, nearly all adjacent properties along the corridor will be impacted. Existing uncontrolled access to properties and site parking within the ROW will be eliminated. On-street parallel parking, consistent pedestrian facilities, streetscape elements, and access management will be employed along the corridor. The property owners have been involved in a detailed planning/engagement process related to this project for several years (see below & attached) and are generally supportive of the project.

2b. Is property acquisition necessary? Yes

(Select all that apply and describe below.)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Willing Seller | <input type="checkbox"/> Appraisal Completed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase Option | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Purchase Agreement | |

Please describe:

A number of temporary grading permits/easements will be required to construct the project in order to build new sidewalk facilities to the ROW line, provide pedestrian connections to adjacent properties, remove existing pavement/parking areas, and transition grades for adequate drainage. The City is engaging a ROW consultant to obtain these, which will be done in accordance with federal requirements. It is anticipated that most property owners are willing to donate the necessary easements to successfully complete the project.

3a. How did you facilitate stakeholder engagement in the development of this project concept and what stakeholders were involved?

The City undertook a lengthy planning process throughout 2016 & 2017 in order to develop the Auburn Road Corridor Plan and subsequent EPE Report related to the improvements along Auburn Road within the Brooklands district (Culbertson to Dequindre). This planning process was done to provide direction for both improvements to the Auburn Road ROW as well as the adjacent properties along it, and to outline specific actions to implement recommendations. Key steps in this process included:

- A market analysis was conducted that included stakeholder interviews, a resident survey, cluster analysis, and demand forecasting.
- Public open houses were held in 2016: May (input on visioning and alternatives), October and November (draft plan)
- A Steering Committee made up of local residents, business/property owners, Planning Commissioners, and City Council members was established and met four times in 2016.
- The Planning Commission and City Council vetted preliminary ideas during a September 2016 joint meeting. Both bodies conducted public hearings during the plan adoption process.
- Stakeholder meetings were held in September 2017 during the EPE study phase to review preliminary design options.
- City Council conducted a public hearing in December 2017 to adopt the EPE Study Report and begin the project implementation for 2019 construction.

See attached corridor plan for additional information on stakeholder engagement.

3b. Describe the stakeholder input you received. How did this input help shape this project concept?

Significant stakeholder input was received regarding the project throughout the process, which helped to shape the plan recommendations and preliminary design of the improvements to the corridor. Many residents, business owners, and City & agency officials provided input through various means, and the majority of the input favored changes to the design of Auburn Road. Specific public input included:

- Need for sidewalks along the corridor
- Sidewalks need to be consistent
- Request for better lighting
- Need for more and better organized parking
- Bring more green elements, landscaping, and public open space to the corridor
- Traffic calming and reduced speeds
- Provide safe pedestrian crossings
- Redesign of Auburn Road into a safe and attractive place for both vehicles and pedestrians
- Create a more walkable environment that supports nearby residents, local businesses and commerce
- Strengthen the overall district brand as a unique destination

4. If this project is identified in an adopted community, county, and/or region-wide plan, please describe (such as master plan, comprehensive plan, trail plan, downtown development plan, etc.):

The project is identified in the City of Rochester Hills' Master Plan, Capital Improvements Plan, and Auburn Road Corridor Plan.

5. Has your community adopted a Complete Streets policy?

No

a. What type of document is your policy? (Select all that apply.)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Improvement Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

b. How does this project support this policy?

c. Describe what investment your community has made and/or activities you conducted to support your complete Streets policy.

Maintenance

1. What agency is responsible for operation and maintenance of the completed project and what source of funds will be used?

The City of Rochester Hills will be responsible for operation and maintenance of the proposed improvements (routine maintenance, winter maintenance, capital preventative maintenance). Operation and maintenance activities will be funded using City funds as allocated through the annual budget process.

2. Describe anticipated maintenance needs by task. (Indicate frequency of maintenance and estimated annual cost.)

The City of Rochester Hills currently maintains pedestrian facilities (sidewalks, pathways, etc.) and ROW landscaping throughout the City. These maintenance activities are completed using both City personnel as well as contracted services.

-Regular maintenance of the sidewalk and hardscape, including sweeping, snow removal, salting, etc. will be incorporated into the City's DPW regular responsibilities. DPW staff will inspect the sidewalk areas routinely (at least once per month) to conduct maintenance activities. A significant cleanup/maintenance event will be performed each spring and fall. Winter maintenance activities will more frequent, as dictated by weather conditions. These activities are estimated to cost \$XXXX annually.

-Ongoing maintenance of the landscape items, including mowing, mulching, trimming/pruning, cultivating, etc. will be incorporated in the City's contracted maintenance services. The City currently utilizes contracted maintenance services for other landscape areas throughout the City. Routine activities will be performed weekly throughout the growing season, with targeted landscape maintenance occurring at various periods (spring, mid-summer, fall) as needed. These activities are estimated to cost \$XXXX annually.

-Capital preventative maintenance, including repair/replacement of sidewalk, furnishings, hardscape, and landscape will be performed by the City. Rochester Hills is committed to maintaining this corridor and all of its pedestrian facilities to the highest possible standard. These activities are estimated to cost \$XXXX annually.