

INFORMATION PAPER

Department of Public Works
November 15, 2021

SUBJECT: Chicago Street (Jefferson – Cass Street) Reconstruction

1. Purpose: Provide background information on the Chicago Street Reconstruction project

2. Facts:

a. A streetscape project, including the removal of the majority of on street parking and the meandering of the road, was completed on Chicago Street in the 1970's. This type of streetscape has fallen into disfavor as it prevents parking adjacent to businesses.

b. The Chicago Street (Jefferson Street- Ruby Street) corridor plan, completed by the City in 2018, proposed to reconstruct portions of Chicago Street to provide one lane of traffic in each direction as well as one lane of parking on each side of the road. New streetscape elements and accommodations for sidewalk cafes are proposed as part of the plan. The project also proposes a plaza/green space on the west side of Chicago Street directly across from the Rialto Square Theatre.

c. The City has earmarked \$3.15 million of REBUILD Illinois funds, which are infrastructure grant funds provided by the State of Illinois, to complete engineering studies and provide infrastructure construction funding for the project. Downtown SSA/TIF Funds will be utilized to conduct planning studies for proposed streetscape elements (planning studies and construction of streetscape elements are not an eligible REBUILD funding expense). A funding source will need to be identified to fund construction of streetscape items.

d. A consulting contract for the Phase I engineering and planning phases of the project in the amount of \$299,000 was awarded to Civiltech Engineering in September 2021. It is anticipated that construction on the project will begin in 2024.

Submitted To: Greg Ruddy/ ext. 4217
Jim Capparelli, 11/15/21