

# City Council Agenda Memo

**From:** Charles Richter, City Engineer

**Council Meeting:** May 7, 2024

**Subject:** Resolution 24-043: Transportation Alternatives Grant Program Funding Authorization

**Person(s) Responsible:** Charles Richter, City Engineer

## **Summary:**

Staff recommends approval of the proposed Resolution to authorize the City Manager to sign and submit a \$672,000 Transportation Alternatives Grant Program funding agreement to construct a pedestrian improvements project on Medary Avenue, adjacent to South Dakota State University.

## **Background:**

The section of Medary Avenue between 7<sup>th</sup> Street and North Campus Drive can be challenging for pedestrians to cross, especially at night. This section of roadway, which runs alongside South Dakota State University, has 14 crosswalks and is used by numerous SDSU students and staff during the school year. Speeding is often an issue for this section of roadway and poor lighting at night, makes it challenging for pedestrians to cross safely.

## **Item Details:**

The Transportation Alternatives Grant Program (TAP) is a state grant program administered by the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) which provides grants to communities to assist with construction of pedestrian-friendly infrastructure.

The City is planning to utilize this program to obtain funding to construct a shared use path, speed tables, improved lighting, and line painting along Medary Avenue. The shared use path will be eight (8) feet wide and installed along the east side of this section of the street. This shared use path trail has been identified in the City's 2017 Master Bicycle Plan connecting the bicycle boulevards on 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Speed tables installed on the north and south ends of this section of Medary Avenue, along with line painting narrowing the traffic lanes, will act as traffic calming along this corridor. Improved lighting will enhance visibility for pedestrians crossing at night.

If approved, staff anticipates this project to be constructed in 2026.

**Legal Consideration:**

None.

**Strategic Plan Consideration:**

Fiscal Responsibility - The City will receive 80% of the project construction cost from the grant.

Safe, Inclusive and Connected - The shared use path, improved lighting and traffic calming efforts will improve pedestrian safety along this section of Medary Avenue.

**Financial Consideration:**

The total cost for this project is \$672,000, of which the grant would cover \$537,600 (80% of the total cost). The remaining \$134,400 (20% of the total cost) will be split evenly between SDSU and the City. Sufficient appropriations will be budgeted in Org. 213 - Capital Improvements, to satisfy the design and construction costs.

**Options and Recommendation:**

The City Council has the following options:

1. Approve as presented
2. Amend
3. Deny
4. Move the item to a study session
5. Discuss / take no action / table

Staff recommends approval.

**Supporting Documentation:**

Memo

Resolution

Map