



City Council Report

Date: May 8, 2017
To: City Council
Through: Kari Kent, Assistant City Manager
From: Beth Huning, City Engineer
Rob Kidder, Assistant City Engineer
Subject: Gilbert Road Light Rail Extension
City Funded Electric Utility Improvements
City Project CP0562
District 4

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Council about the inclusion of City funded electric improvements as part of the Gilbert Road Light Rail Extension (GRE) project (See Exhibit "A" for project location).

Staff recommends that Council approve the funding of electric utility improvements on Main Street between Ashland and Horne. The total amount of the proposed improvements is \$384,836.66, which includes a \$30,000 allowance for City of Mesa requested modifications during construction.

Background

On March 10, 2015, the City Council approved entering into a Design and Construction Agreement for the development of the Gilbert Road Light Rail Extension (GRE) project. This project will extend the existing light rail system from the current end of line station at Mesa Drive and Main Street to a new end of line station west of Gilbert Road, approximately 1.9 miles.

The approved Design and Construction Agreement includes a process for the City to add City funded improvements to the project. These improvements typically include upgrades to City utilities and other facilities that are located adjacent to or within the new light rail facilities, but are not being directly impacted by the project. These improvements are referred to as Concurrent Non-Project Activities (CNPA), which must be funded by the City.

This CNPA request is for electric utility improvements between Ashland and Horne on Main Street.

The electric utility improvements consist of constructing an additional 700 feet of underground primary electric duct bank and cable infrastructure from Ashland to Horne to complete the needed conduit path from Hobson to Horne. This connection would provide redundancy, improve both reliability and system operating flexibility, and would support future load growth along Main Street.

Discussion

The request to include these electric improvements was submitted to METRO for their review and concurrence. As part of this process, METRO requested pricing from the GRE project contractor, Stacy-Witbeck Sundt, A Joint Venture (SWS). The pricing provided from the contractor was reviewed and negotiated by City and METRO staff, after which all parties agreed to a negotiated cost that was reasonable for the proposed work.

Alternatives

The Council could choose not to include these CNPA improvements as part of the light rail project. This is not recommended since the electric improvements would not be addressed during the rest of construction on Main Street for the light rail project. Delaying this project could result in future disruption to the public and could be more costly in following years.

Fiscal Impact

This project is funded by 2014 authorized Electric Bonds.

Coordinated With

The Energy Resources Department concurs with this recommendation.