



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Planning & Development Review *Staff Report*

Ord. No. 2024-005: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the total amount of \$1,599,897.00 from the Central Virginia Transportation Authority, to amend Ord. No. 2023-073, adopted May 8, 2023, which accepted a program of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the four fiscal years thereafter, adopted a Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, and determined a means of financing the same, by (i) establishing a new project for the Department of Public Works in the Transportation category called the “Manchester Connection to James River - Ped/Bike” project and (ii) increasing estimated revenues from the funds received from the Central Virginia Transportation Authority and the amount appropriated to the new Department of Public Works’ Manchester Connection to James River - Ped/Bike project in the Transportation category by \$1,599,897.00, all for the purpose of funding the implementation of a Manchester Connection to James River project to construct pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements for safe access to certain James River bridges and trails.

To: City Planning Commission
From: Land Use Administration
Date: January 16, 2024

PETITIONER

Department of Public Works

PURPOSE

To amend Ord. No. 2023-073 adopted May 8, 2023, which adopted the Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2024, and to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the total amount of \$ 1,599,897.00 from the Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA) and appropriate the revenues by amending the FY2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget in Transportation category for the NEW ‘Manchester Connection to James River - Ped/Bike’ project.

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

On May 1, 2020, the Virginia General Assembly adopted House Bill 1541, which created the Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA), comprising the counties and cities located in Planning District 15 to provide new funding opportunities for priority transportation investments across the region. The Central Virginia Transportation Authority is a body politic and as a political subdivision of the Commonwealth. The Authority embraces each county, city, and the nine localities are Richmond City, Hanover County, Goochland County, Powhatan County, Chesterfield County, Charles City County, New Kent County, Henrico County and Town of Ashland. The Authority administers transportation funding generated through Regional 0.7 percent sales and use tax; Wholesale tax of 7.6 cents per gallon of gasoline and 7.7 cents per gallon of diesel fuel. Localities receive 50% of the funds collected in their jurisdiction; Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA) receives 35% of the funding to disburse on regional priority projects; and GRTC receives 15%.

Manchester Connection to the James River - Ped/Bike project is a Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA) Regional funded project. The project plans to accomplish the following:

- Regional project that will provide a 10' paved shared use path with 2' shoulders and a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge crossing the Norfolk Southern Railroad (NSRR).
- Provide access across private property through acquisition of a permanent easement from Semmes Ave and the T. Tyler Potterfield Memorial Bridge (T-Pot Bridge).
- Provides pedestrian and bicyclist access and improves safety along a critical 0.3 mile connection between the T. Tyler Potterfield Memorial Bridge (T-Pot Bridge) and Semmes Ave, continuing adjacent to the grade-separated segment of Commerce Road and the Manchester Bridge to McDonough Street where it will tie into the Fall Line Trail (FLT) at the terminus of two of the FLT project phases; the Manchester Bridge Fall Line Trail extending north over the James River, and the Commerce Road Fall Line Trail Phase I extending southward along Commerce Road.
- This project creates a spur that links the FLT and the Manchester Community to the T-Pot Bridge, providing bicyclist and pedestrian access to destinations such as Browns Island and the Virginia Capital Trail on the north side of the James River. This project will also include crossing improvements to allow for safe crossing of Semmes Avenue at what is currently an uncontrolled midblock, unmarked crosswalk, as well as LED pedestrian-scale lighting along the trail connection.

Design will begin upon execution of the CVTA Standard Project Agreement (SPA). The Right of Way Phase is expected to be implemented in FY2025 and FY2026. The project is anticipated to be advertised for construction in FY2027.

The Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA) funded the project for a total of \$6,344,831.00 from FY2023 through FY2027. The CVTA allocations for FY2023 and FY2024 need to be accepted as a budget amendment of the FY2024-FY2029 City Capital Improvement Budget to have funds to do design. The Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA) Allocations are as follows: FY2023 - \$564,900.00; FY2024 - \$1,034,997.00; FY 2026 - \$ 2,372,467.00; FY 2027 - \$ 2,372,467.00. The FY2026 and FY2027 Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA) funding allocations are being budgeted through the normal CIP budget process.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Site Description

Along the James River between the T. Potterfield Bridge and Semmes Avenue

Proposed Use of the Property

A ten-foot shared use path.

Master Plan

The City's Richmond 300 Master Plan designates a future land use for the subject property as Public Open Space, which is defined as a "Public and quasi-public parks, recreation areas, open spaces, and cemeteries."

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