



TO: Mayor Tom Ross
Members of the City Council

FROM: Lance Meyer, P.E., City Engineer

DATE: February 5, 2024

SUBJECT: **WARD COUNTY CONNECTOR RAISE GRANT REQUEST RESUBMITTAL (4657)**

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Recommend council approve the funding request to resubmit a RAISE grant for the environmental study;
2. Approve the budget amendment on 1st reading

II. DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSONS

Lance Meyer, City Engineer	701-857-4100
Stephen Joersz, Traffic Engineer	701-857-4100

III. DESCRIPTION

A. Background

Previously, Ward County has been studying alternatives for a southwest and southeast bypass around Minot. There were dozens of potential alternatives for alignments and connections to various highways around Minot.

In 2023, council approved the City's participation in applying for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to fund the environmental document for the first phase of an arterial connection into southwest Minot. This would also help to identify the final alignment and connection points, so right of way acquisitions could begin. There is development pressure around some of the connection points, so completing a study in the near term is very important.

2023's application was unsuccessful. However, in a debrief with federal officials they indicated the application scored very well and made it to the final round of the selection process.

B. Proposed Project

In discussions with the County Engineer, he is contracting with Bolton & Menk, who performed the study and submitted last year's RAISE grant for the environmental document.

Based on the feedback from FHWA, Bolton & Menk proposes to update the application to bolster the area where the grant application could be expanded upon. Their fee proposal is \$8,000 which would be split evenly with Ward County. Staff budgeted a \$5,000 contingency into last year's application, so the \$4,000 needed for this year's application is available in reserves.

Due to the size of this project, the environmental document will likely cost \$2-3 million. So, obtaining federal funds to pay for most of the grant is critical. Federal grant funds could pay for at least 80% of the study cost.

C. Consultant Selection

Bolton & Menk was selected by Ward County to perform the work on the study.

IV. IMPACT:

A. Strategic Impact:

The City and County have been looking for ways to provide another north/south arterial roadway connection in west Minot. A link would significantly relieve the 16th St and Broadway corridors from current and future traffic congestion.

B. Service/Delivery Impact:

An improvement project to provide a southwest bypass and another north/south arterial roadway connection will have a significant reduction to travel delays and will solve critical crash locations along the US 2/52 bypass.

C. Fiscal Impact:

To update the work that was completed last year and bolster other areas of the grant application, Bolton & Menk as provided an hourly not to exceed estimate of \$8,000 to perform the work.

Project Costs

\$8,000 total cost. \$4,000 each from Minot and Ward County

Project Funding

Sales Tax Infrastructure

V. CITY COUNCIL ASPIRATIONS

The following are the aspirations achieved with the grant request: dynamic and flourishing; safe and welcoming; excellent and connected.

VI. ALTERNATIVES

Alternate 1: Council could choose not to participate in the grant application.

VII. TIME CONSTRAINTS

If the city wants to participate in this application round, the funding must be approved at this meeting in order to meet the deadline.

VIII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

A. Budget Amendment