

The Rock Island City Council met in Study Session at 6:30 pm in City Council Chambers at Rock Island City Hall. Present were Mayor Dennis E. Pauley presiding, and Aldermen Stephen L. Tollenaer, Jason W. Jones, Joy Murphy, Charles O. Austin III, Terry M.A. Brooks I, David Conroy and P.J. Foley. Also present were City Manager Thomas Thomas, Community and Economic Development Director Greg Champagne, Public Works Director Bob Hawes, other City staff and City Attorney Ted Kutsunis.

BICYCLE PATH PLAN

Community and Economic Development Director Greg Champagne updated Council on the Bikeways Plan. Mr. Champagne referred to the handout that was distributed to Council and advised that the first page is the Bikeways map, which gives an idea of how the bikeways are to be connected throughout the community. Mr. Champagne explained the four Bikeways project elements, which included; the striping of 20th Street from 1st to 18th Avenue; 17th Street from 18th Avenue to 31st Avenue; 31st Avenue from 38th Street to Sunset Park; and 38th Street to Williamson Park or to the connection on the west Rock River Bridge project. Mr. Champagne commented that by implementing this project, it will create major north/south and east/west bike routes.

Mr. Champagne advised that in the last discussion, Council had concerns regarding parking and costs. It was noted that the original plan included the elimination of one lane of parking on 17th Street, 20th Street and 31st Avenue. It was noted that the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration were contacted and they will allow the use of sharrows (pavement markings) instead of bike lane striping. It was noted that the parking lanes will not have to be removed. Mr. Champagne commented that by using sharrows, it could reduce the project costs by 25% to 30%.

Mr. Champagne indicated that the 20th Street and 17th Street striping projects were estimated at \$327,840.00. It was noted that the bike facility at 21st Avenue and 7th Avenue is in the Downtown TIF district and \$100,000.00 is proposed to cover that segment. Mr. Champagne pointed out that the balance of the striping on 20th and 17th Street from 7th Avenue south was to be covered by a state grant of \$182,240.00, which requires a local match of \$45,600.00. Mr. Champagne advised that the cost of the striping on 31st Avenue from 38th Street to Sunset Park is estimated at \$580,000.00. It was noted that \$470,000.00 of Federal grant funds were obtained, which requires a local match of \$110,000.00. Mr. Champagne commented that the estimated cost for the connection to the west Rock River Bridge is \$268,000.00. It was noted that a State grant was obtained for \$200,000.00, but requires a local match of \$68,000.00.

Mr. Champagne advised that there is a little over \$1 million dollars in projects. It was noted that approximately 72% of the \$1 million dollars is funded through various grants and about 28% will be funded locally and with \$100,000.00 in TIF funds. Mr. Champagne added that if the costs could be reduced by 30%, the local match would be reduced to \$227,000.00.

Discussion followed. Council discussed parking as it related to contacting neighbors concerning the possibility of eliminating parking on various streets in regards to the bike lanes.

