



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STAFF MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 24, 2012

TO: Mr. Mark Perkins, City Administrator

CC: Mr. James Heines, Director of Public Works

FROM: Matt Wohlberg, P.E., City Engineer

SUBJECT: Project Update and Discussion
Olive Boulevard Transportation Development District
Creve Coeur, Missouri

The Olive Boulevard Transportation Development District (Olive TDD) has, over the past year, shifted its focus from the implementation of the Phase 1 Improvement Project to other projects as a result of the lack of supplemental funding necessary for the Phase 1 project.

The current proposal is to continue the burial of the overhead utilities along Olive Boulevard, which is currently in the design phase. The expectation is that this project will be complete by the end of the 2013 construction season.

Evaluation of Construction Options

In the spring of 2011, it became evident that the anticipated supplemental financing arrangement would not come to fruition. As a result, City staff was asked to review the available construction options within the budget of the Olive TDD. City staff developed two proposals for reducing the scope of the Phase 1 project to the maximum extent possible, with each proposal focusing on one of the two intersections involved in the Phase 1 project. Unfortunately, the projected cost of each of these options exceeded the available Olive TDD funds.

Traffic Study. Olive Boulevard is owned and maintained by the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), and, as such, all work performed on Olive Boulevard must be permitted through MoDOT. Because the Phase 1 improvements had been justified to MoDOT to date through a traffic study of the Olive corridor, MoDOT indicated that an update to this traffic study would be needed to justify the reduction in the scope of the Phase 1 project. As a result, the design engineer for the Phase 1 project, Crawford Bunte Brammeier (CBB), developed a proposal to update the traffic study.

Olive TDD Board Meeting. The Olive TDD Board met on July 12, 2011, and reviewed both the construction options developed by City staff and the traffic study update proposal developed by CBB. City staff presented the apparent construction options to the Olive TDD Board and discussed the necessity of the traffic study. The Olive TDD Board discussed that it was unclear what benefit the updated traffic study would have, considering that the Olive TDD budget was not sufficient to cover either of the apparent roadway improvement options. Furthermore, given the cost of the traffic study update, the Olive TDD Board felt that it would be less able to implement any project should it pursue the study.

The Olive TDD Board determined that pursuit of the Phase 1 Improvement Project was no longer prudent. City staff was then directed to investigate other alternatives, including the continued burial of utility lines along Olive, and to report its findings to the Olive TDD Board.

Evaluation of Construction Options

City staff reviewed three (3) possibilities for roadway improvements, including street lighting projects and the continued burial of utility lines along Olive Boulevard:

1. Utility line burial along Olive Boulevard between North New Ballas Road and Orchard Lake Drive. This project would occur in two phases, with the Olive TDD's electrical contractor making certain improvements prior to the burial of lines by Ameren.
2. The addition of four (4) street lights along Olive Boulevard between Old Ballas Road and Craig Road.
3. The addition of up to six (6) decorative lights along the sidewalk of North New Ballas Road just south of Olive Boulevard.

Upon consultation with Ameren and a private contractor, preliminary project scopes and cost estimates were developed for these projects.

These preliminary proposals were presented to the Olive TDD Board at its meeting on September 7, 2011. The Olive TDD Board reviewed the proposals and their projected budgets and determined that the utility line burial, being the largest of the three projects, should be pursued first. City staff was then directed to coordinate with Ameren to develop design plans for the utility line burial.

Progress Report for Utility Line Burial

City staff has met with representatives from Ameren on several occasions throughout the winter of 2011-2012 to discuss the scope of the project for both Ameren and the Olive TDD's electrical contractor. Ameren is currently in the process of designing the project (to include the work to be performed by Ameren and that by the TDD's contractor), and Ameren anticipates that the plans will be complete by August 2012.

Approvals. City staff plans to present the Ameren design and cost estimate to the Olive TDD Board for their consideration upon completion of the plans. Should the Olive TDD Board agree to pursue the project, the plans would be sent to MoDOT for their consideration and approval. The project proposal would also be brought before the City's Planning and Zoning Commission for their review. These presentations and reviews are anticipated to last at least a month after the date of TDD approval.

Construction outlook. City staff anticipates that, should the project be approved and permitted by September 1, 2011, the work to be performed by the Olive TDD's contractor could be publicly let, awarded, and constructed by early 2013. This being the case, Ameren would be expected to follow with utility line burial later in 2013.