

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Brent Bristol, Village of Ephraim

**CC:** Mike McCutcheon, Nick Becker

**From:** Jamison W. Brown

**Date:** 7/13/2015

**Re:** Potential Funding Options for Water Street (HWY 42)

Per your request, we are providing a summary of potential funding options for the improvements proposed for the Highway 42 (Water Street) corridor. Please note that specific links to grant opportunities listed here and previously identified can be found in Chapter 7 of the Alternative Analysis presented to the Village on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

As you know, it was brought to our attention that the rules for the Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP) have recently changed. Despite being directed to this funding option by several members of the WisDOT, as of this program cycle, these funds can no longer be used on DOT owned Right of Ways. Although this is disappointing, there are several, perhaps better, funding options still available.

It is our recommendation that the following steps be taken by the Village to better prepare for any of the following grant/funding opportunities.

1. Adopt the 30% Plans for Water Street as an addendum to the Village's Master Plan. The Village has completed a robust and inclusive public engagement process. Although no Plan will ever have the unanimous support of an entire community, it is our opinion that the this plan is a broadly supported solution that directly addresses the stated need of the citizens of and visitors to Ephraim for a more safe and aesthetically pleasing corridor.
2. Meet in person with State Legislators and WisDOT Staff to promote the adopted plan. Support from these officials will be invaluable as the Village seeks funding.
3. Continue to support the HWY 42 Plan through implementation of the Streetscape Design and Landscape Architectural Plan. This includes the development of consolidated Village parking lots, a bike sharing program, the design of priority walking and biking routes, etc.

There are several options for implementing the Village's preferred alternative for the Highway 42 Plan. Some may require the creative phasing of different aspects of the plan, others may require sustained conversations with elected officials and DOT Supervisors. Either way, the livingLAB team is ready and willing to help the Village navigate the process and move toward the implementation of the community's Vision.

#### **Option 1: WisDOT Funding**

With this funding option the State would take on the Village's Plan as their own and fund the project through a re-scoping of their existing resurfacing project. This could fund all or a portion of the Plan and may require various levels of participation from the Village. For example, the replacement of the cross culverts. Negotiations should start immediately for this option with the hope of a 2017 construction.

#### **Option 2: Transportation Alternative Funding (TAP)**

This option allocates funding to projects like the Village's that provide non-motorized (sidewalks, bike lanes and paths). Typically, this funding source would require a 20% match from the Village. However, your current planning and design fees may be eligible costs. Therefore, the Village may be able to seek reimbursement for up to 80% of those fees or apply those costs to their overall match. The application cycle opens in late October and funds have been allocated through 2018.

<http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/aid/tap.aspx>

#### **Option 3: Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program Funding (CMAQ)**

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement program (CMAQ) encourages transportation projects that improve air quality. It includes efforts to enhance public transit, bicycle/pedestrian facilities, ridesharing programs and facilities, and technologies that improve traffic flow and vehicle emissions. Like the TAP program a 20% local match is required. The next available application deadline is June, 2017.

<http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/aid/cmaq.aspx>

#### **Option 4: Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, school districts or other state political subdivisions are eligible to apply for grants for acquisition and/or development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Therefore, this grant may be used for development of the multi-use trail in Section A of the Plan. Applications are due in May of each year. Grants cover 50% of eligible project costs.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/LWCF.html>

#### **Option 5: Local Funding**

In this option the Village would fund all or some of the proposed Plan through a combination of Bond issue and the Village's General Fund.

Other funding options may be available, however, those noted above are the most common. Again, the livingLAB team will be available as a partner to help the Village navigate this process and can be reached at your convenience for further clarification. We look forward to making the Village's strong vision a reality!

Respectfully Submitted,

livingLAB

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.W.B.', followed by a long horizontal line that ends in an arrowhead pointing to the right.

Jamison W. Brown, ASLA, PLA  
landscape architect + partner