

DATE: MAY 8, 2017

ISSUE:

The Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Project – Conway Elementary School

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:

In April 2014, the City of Conway applied for a Federal Safe Routes to School Grant from SCDOT to fund the construction of sidewalks at Conway Elementary School, bike racks, and other safety items. Both the City and the Horry County School Board added \$58,000 each to the project.

The grant was awarded for this project and after community meetings, which included representatives from Conway Elementary School and the City of Conway, sidewalks were approved for one side of Magrath Street (from Snowhill to Lakeland) totaling 1,400 linear feet and one side of Snowhill and Sherwood Drive (from the School to the 5-way intersection) totaling 1,600 linear feet. The total budget for the project was \$516,000, with \$400,000 coming from SCDOT and the remaining \$116,000 coming from the City and School District. Of this budget, SCDOT has allocated \$150,000 for right of way acquisition, engineering and inspections. This leaves only \$366,000 for the actual construction of the sidewalk.

SCDOT is managing the construction and engineering of this project. SCDOT's engineering and right of way acquisition has been finalized, however the estimates for construction of the project now exceed the total budget. The total construction estimate is \$600,051. Of this budget, SCDOT has allocated \$40,681.44 for construction engineering and inspections. The remaining costs of construction, estimated at \$559,369.80, exceed the construction budget by \$193,369.80.

As such, SCDOT asked that the City consider cutting either Magrath's sidewalks or Snowhill/Sherwood's sidewalks to allow the project to not exceed the budget. SCDOT's estimated cost for the Magrath sidewalks alone is \$407,723. The estimated cost for the Snowhill/Sherwood sidewalks alone is \$392,683. On April 3, in order to bring the project within the SCDOT estimated costs, City Council voted to prioritize the Snowhill/Sherwood portion of the project, as this was perceived as the biggest safety issue at Conway Elementary. Nevertheless, Council also asked that SCDOT bid the entire project but break the bid requests up by sections, so that in the event that the estimates were lower than expected, the entire project could still be considered.

RECOMMENDATION:

The City of Conway recommends that the Horry County School Board consider reducing the scope of the Safe Routes to School Project at Conway Elementary School to include just the Snowhill/Sherwood section of the project unless the project bids are less than the anticipated costs and the entirety of the project can be completed.