

Progress Guide Jan 2019

The complex Market Street Reconstruction project from 5th St. to Dutch Hollow Road consists of preliminary engineering, right of way issues and acquisition, archaeological and historic environmental issues, drainage, utilities, construction, and construction inspection. The City of Aurora has been awarded Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds towards Market Street's preliminary engineering currently in motion. Anticipated construction is to begin 2022. Following FHWA guidelines and the original Des #1600706 Notice of Award, each project phase will pursue contractual negotiations, approvals by the City of Aurora with INDOT review and then anticipated 80% INDOT funding award. The City of Aurora has approved \$600,000 saved over four years starting in 2017 towards the required 20% match for the estimated \$2,958,000.00 project. Previous INDOT FHWA Award of \$1,727,200 towards construction and \$256,000 received from Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI), along with preliminary engineering award of \$348,359.20 result in a total of \$2,331,559.20 of project funding received to date.

Aurora Utilities focus has been to address the impact of road projects by the City and State, coordinate utility improvements with the Second Street Reconstruction project, redecking of the SR 350 Bridge and paving of US 50 by INDOT. In 2016-2018 over \$690,125 has been spent on utility infrastructure improvements and repairs including a new water line on Main Street and Second Street. Following continued vigilance over operational costs, in efforts to keep customer rates low, city officials must focus on Utility rates for water, sewer and gas with long term asset management and operation sustainability in mind. In 2019 over \$254,000 will be spent on water and sewer utility improvements including a \$600,000 Wet Weather Storage basin in downtown to eliminate combined sewer overflow as the final mandate from IDEM's Agreed Order. Utility improvement financing is from 2019 riverboat gaming budget and a Lawrenceburg Bond Bank Loan. Aurora Utilities is also pursuing an OCRA Master Utility Planning Grant. More information to come on the Aurora Utility Bill and Newsletter and as always a favorite, "Aurora Ramblings" by Aurora Superintendent Randy Turner.

A total of \$514,295 has been awarded in 2016-2017 for INDOT Community Crossings projects. Aurora Utilities installed a new water main on Main Street and Second Street in our continuing work of upgrading utility infrastructure in the City. Community Crossings roadway project funding award focused on full Second Street pavement overlay between US 50 to Judiciary Street to include all new sidewalks, installation of brick pavers crosswalks at each intersection, ADA ramps, inlets, pavement markings and signage. Parking transition included parallel parking and angle parking to widen access and minimize accidents along Second Street has been met with much approval. The city block of Second St. between Main Street and Judiciary Street was converted into a two-way access street. Second Street utility improvements and Community Crossings project coordination was substantially completed prior to the Aurora Farmers Festival with \$15,213.60 in original contract savings upon completion.

The 2018 Community Crossings Matching Grant Award of \$724,729.95 was approved with a total of 19 street projects will be coordinated in 2019. Estimated project budget is \$981,271.77 which includes roadway reconstruction, mill and overlay along with soil nail installation for road slip repairs on Park Avenue as evidenced by the 2018 City of Aurora Pavement Asset Management Plan. The City of Aurora has agreed to provide fiscal commitment towards these necessary road improvements from our 2019 MVH Fund for the purpose of meeting our local match obligation toward the 2018 Community Crossings Matching Grant applications.

Aurora Police Department Chief Joshua Dougherty shares “Priorities for the police department would be the much needed replacement of our in-car-cameras and new body cameras.” Dearborn Community Foundation and DOC Grant funding was awarded in 2017-18. “The APD implemented our new active shooter equipment and active shooter training. The equipment will make our officer’s safer and more effective in the event of an active shooter incident. In attention, the Aurora Police Department has deployed our new K-9 “Ozzy”. We will be utilizing the K-9 not only for patrol (drug detection, suspect apprehension, and tracking) but also for community outreach. Our K-9 handler, Jonathan Kolb, will conducting K-9 demonstrations to local schools and community originations. Connecting with our community, especially children is important to the Aurora Police Department, the K-9 program is a tool that we plan to use more effectively to do so. “Ken & Nancy Rice Ray also sponsored a K9 Safety Vest for Ozzy while raising awareness and support for K-9 program equipment thru the City of Aurora K9 Donation Fund. Contact Officer Kolb for more info.

Aurora Fire Department Fire Chief Jeffery Lane shares “There is a lot of information (www.aurora.in.us) about the members of the department and the things that we do in the community. Over the years we have had many people tirelessly contribute to lives of the citizens of the City of Aurora, Center Township and Washington Township. As the Fire Chief I am extremely grateful to our members for their efforts. We strive daily to do our best to protect the public. We work hard at preparing for the next disaster and assuring that our bodies and our equipment are ready to respond at a moment’s notice. Please look through our website and if you can’t find something or have an idea for an improvement let us know. The members of this department have always stood above the crowd. The commitment, dedication and innovative concepts and ideas have always helped to keep this department ahead of the rest. If you would like to be a member of our firefighting family, please complete the membership form or call us at 812-926-1682.”

The viability of downtown Aurora is vital to the commercial viability of Aurora as a whole. Central to downtown revitalization, the Façade Improvement Matching Grant Program focused on owner occupied residential, commercial, retail or church properties located within the core business district. \$5000 matching grants were limited to exterior preservation, restoration or rehabilitation of real properties identified within the Historic District as eligible sites. Applicants addressed storefront entryways, lighting, tuck-pointing, painting, windows, roofing and signage. Over \$735,309 in community reinvestment projects have been initiated from public and private community investment funds in the downtown historic district between 2016-2018. This represented a 72% return investment from the community partnered with 28% investment from the City of Aurora with support from Main Street Aurora. The Sign Grant pilot program resulted in 8 new business signs with up to a \$3000 sign grant awarded for eligible applicants. Total Façade Improvement Sign Grant Awards for 2018 equal \$23,299.81.

Winner of the AIM Municipal Innovation Award, the City of Aurora won statewide recognition in for the Façade Improvement Matching Grant Program. The overwhelming success of the City of Aurora’s Façade Improvement Matching Grant Program stems from the premise of shared vision, local support and funding ingenuity. Please take the time to enjoy the community showcase video with aerial footage of the city and more information on the City of Aurora website at <http://aurora.in.us>

At least 10 other stimulus projects that were pursued without FIMG grant assistance as well brings the total community investment closer to 1 million. To stimulate another highly anticipated round of community investment the Façade Improvement Matching Grant Program and Sign Grant Program will

continue in 2019. Contact Guinevere Emery, City Manager, at gemery@aurora.in.us or 513-505-7647 for more information.

The River Cities Bike Share Program- the first municipal bike share program partnership of its kind - promotes bicycle connectivity within the Cities of Aurora & Lawrenceburg, as well as regionally, to maximize exposure to our local assets such as the Ohio River, the Historic Business Districts, Neighborhoods and the Dearborn Trail. Over 4966 bike rentals occurred between the 2017-2018 seasons. The River Cities Bike Share Program highlights Downtown Revitalization, Neighborhood Revitalization, Tourism/Outdoor Recreation, Riverfront Development and Quality of Life & Community Connections. From community involvement in the logo design, anticipation and enjoyment of the launch season, as well as, the truly engaging response from the public locally and statewide, the River Cities Bike Share Program continues. The program is based on a user friendly RENT, RIDE & RETURN premise with each location having parking access on site. The 3 bike station locations are Downtown Aurora (Main Street across from City Hall), Dearborn Trail (Next to the Ohio River and the Aurora Dog Park) and Downtown Lawrenceburg (in front of the Lawrenceburg Ivy Tech Riverfront Campus and the Lawrenceburg Event Center). Bike rental costs are reasonable at \$3.00 the first hour and \$2.00 each additional hour. Visit www.rivercitiesbikeshare.com for more information.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials initiated disaster recovery operations following the declaration by President Donald Trump that Indiana was now eligible for federal assistance due to historic flooding Feb. 14-March 4, 2018. Seventy five percent of the \$145,148 in damages to city parks & facilities including debris removal, road repairs and emergency protection services is being coordinated thru FEMA for recovery costs. The boots on the ground work ethic and support towards area flood preparation, emergency response and flood recovery cleanup efforts provided by all local and state emergency management agencies, elected officials, department heads, city employees, regional volunteers, volunteer fire departments, local businesses, municipal partners and organizations such as the Aurora Lions, Red Cross, South Dearborn Community School Corporation and others was amazing. "Aurora (was) a week ahead of other similar areas affected in terms of flood emergency coordination and cleanup efforts." IDHS. Over 500 hundred volunteers from the tristate area assisted during the Aurora Flood Recovery Clean Up effort. Way to go and thank you.

The City of Aurora designated the new park development located at 109 Judiciary Street as the Gabbard Riverfront Park to promote tourism and a community gathering place along the scenic Ohio River in the heart of historic downtown Aurora. Following the subsequent demolition of the unsafe three story – progress included building a new stage using repurposed materials salvaged from the historic building was built, electric installed, electric light pole upgrades were installed, retaining wall and entry sign using salvage brick, drainage, parking, landscaping and trees were installed. A gorgeous mural sponsored by Don Andrew and the City of Aurora featured Aurora's first steam engine next to the stage painted by muralist Christian Dallas.

Partnering with Main Street Aurora for their 20 year Anniversary Legacy Project with a contribution of \$15,000, The City of Aurora received a \$40,000 grant from the Rising Sun Regional Foundation towards the creation of a Pergola Swing Corridor along Second Street at Gabbard Riverfront Park which will be built in spring of 2019. The City of Aurora is offering a special Memorial Tribute Sponsorship package for our community members to honor loved ones or services as part of our Master Parks Plan in our city

parks. Individuals may contact the City Manager, to sponsor custom benches or swings for the Pergola Swing Corridor or park benches at Gabbard Riverfront Park. The Gabbard Riverfront Park opening dedication will be on June 28th 2019 featuring the Mudbugs and other entertainment.

The Aurora Recreation Community Center is dedicated to supporting the needs of the community thru health, fitness and recreation. All Aurora Recreational Community Center (ARCC) members now have 24/7 access to all fitness areas, locker rooms, showers, and gymnasium. Please visit <https://www.aurorarecreationcommunitycenter.com/> for more information. Following a major team effort from Aurora to reorganize the management structure from independent contractor to current ARCC management and staffing team; Mayor Hastings, Park Board and Aurora leadership support sought to focus on open 24-7 ARCC operations, budget, facility maintenance and equipment improvements, sponsorships, programs, classes, rates, community enhancement grants, expansion of facility use options, leases and marketing. The results are outstanding. Stop in today to enjoy the 5 star ARCC experience. 404 Green Blvd, Aurora, IN 47001, USA

Aurora Mayor Donnie Hastings & City Manager Emery presented a plaque to the Dearborn County Commissioners that will be placed in honor aboard the USS Indiana (SS789) commissioned 9-29-18 as a tribute to the men and women "Hoosiers" serving aboard the USS Indiana. Each of the 92 counties in Indiana were offered the opportunity to represent local support for their namesake submarine. The Navy's newest, fast attack submarine is 337 feet long and weighs over 7800 tons while operating at 25 knots. The USS Indiana SSN 789 is the 3rd ship to bear the name and the 1st to be a submarine. The USS Indiana SSN 789 is led by Commander Jesse Zimbauer and will hold 130-140 crew members.

Main Street Aurora is working to make a difference! Business revitalization continues in Aurora with over 23 new businesses opening between 2017-18. Countless hours have been spent by numerous volunteers over the past 12 months preparing for Aurora's Bicentennial in 2019. Six months of events will kick off in May with Celebrate Aurora Community Picnic held in the center of newly constructed Second Street. Bicentennial Souvenirs are available now including logo engraved case knives, hard cover pictorial commemorative book and Aurora-opoly. Stop by the Main Street Aurora office daily 10:00-5:00 to purchase your keepsakes or visit www.aurora.in.us to order online.

Individuals interested in volunteering or contributing to the 2019 City of Aurora Bicentennial should contact Main Street Aurora Director Nancy Turner at 812-926-1100. The City of Aurora anticipates a yearlong celebration along with treasured local festivities such as the Red White & Boom event, Hillforest Victorian Museum, Aurora Farmers Fair and Miracle on Main St. events. The LST will again plan to revisit Aurora and with tours taking place September 13 through 16 along with B & B Riverboats providing a dinner cruise on 9-15-19. A full list of Bicentennial Events will be on city website. Hats off to the City of Aurora & Main Street Aurora for their significant efforts towards revitalization and community engagement. Come join the fun and be a part of history. Visit www.aurora.in.us today!

Sincerely submitted by City Manager Guinevere Emery