

## Progress Guide 2018

After receiving the critical 4.5 million dollar sewer utility infrastructure grant from the City of Lawrenceburg for sewer utility improvements, Aurora has completed installation of the new force main sewer line from the Moore Street lift station, along the Dearborn Trail to the South Dearborn Regional Sewer District Treatment Plant in Lawrenceburg. In March of 2017, GRW Engineers, Inc. were named State Finalists for the City of Aurora Phase IA Long Term Control Plan Compliance Project on behalf of the ACEC Indiana Engineering Excellence Awards. City Manager, Guinevere Emery stated it best. "The Force Main Project was on time, on budget and not in litigation." These local government collaborations are again critical to regional growth, infrastructure improvements and economic development.

The complex Market Street Reconstruction from 5th St. to Dutch Hollow Road project consists of preliminary engineering, right of way issues and acquisition, archaeological and historic environmental issues, drainage, utilities, construction, and construction inspection. Sharing the received award notification from INDOT following review of the VS Engineering LPA Consulting contract (\$435,449.00). The City of Aurora has been awarded Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds of \$348,359.20 as an 80% match with the City of Aurora responsible for 20% match at \$87,089.20 towards Market Street's preliminary engineering. 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 towards the required 20% match for the estimated \$2,958,000.00 to \$3,257,439.00 project. Previous INDOT FHWA Award of \$1,727,200 towards construction and \$240,000 received from Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI), along with preliminary engineering award of \$348,359.20 result in a total of \$2,315,559.20 of project funding received to date. As Mayor Donnie Hastings Jr. states, "Make it Happen."

In 2018 Aurora Utilities focus will be to address the impact of road projects by the City and State, coordinate the Second Street Reconstruction project, redecking of the SR 350 Bridge and paving of US 50 by INDOT. Look for Aurora Utilities to offer a temporary relocation of their office to keep access by our customers possible during Duke Energy's cleanup efforts on the former gas plant site at Main and Importing Sts will be a priority. More information to come on the Aurora Utility Bill and Newsletter and as always a favorite, "Aurora Ramblings" by Aurora Superintendent Randy Turner. 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.

Aurora Police Department Chief Joshua Dougherty shares "Priorities for the police department would be the much need replacement of our in-car-cameras. We will be applying for grant money to hopefully get this accomplished in 2018. We will be implementing our new active shooter equipment and beginning to implement the equipment into active shooter training. The Aurora Police Department was awarded a grant through the Dearborn County Community Foundation for the equipment in 2017. 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. "

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 \$526,501 in community reinvestment projects have been initiated from public and private community investment funds with an overwhelming 72% return from the community between 2016-2017. This represented a 72% return investment from the Community partnered with 28% from the City of Aurora and Main Street Aurora.

At least 10 other stimulus projects that were pursued without FIMG grant assistance as well brings the total community investment closer to \$800,000. To stimulate another highly anticipated round of community investment the Façade Improvement Matching Grant Program will continue in 2018, as well as, the Small Business, 2nd Floor Residency Forgivable Grant Investment Program which focuses on interior improvements, business development stability and long term housing.

Winner of the 2017 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 and more information on the City of Aurora website at <http://aurora.in.us>

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 for examples. This program has the capacity from a regional perspective to target tourism growth and economic vitality thru a river gateway destination portal.

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.

To date over 3000 bike rentals have occurred in the River Cities Bike Share Program. The overwhelming success of the River Cities Bike Share Program reflects program ingenuity, localized support for shared connectivity and fortitude to recognize our region with a quality experiences. The River Cities Bike Share Program is the smallest bike share program within southeast Indiana with the season returning SPRING 2018. Visit [rivercitiesbikeshare.com](http://rivercitiesbikeshare.com) for more information.

The City of Aurora received \$445,000 in 2017 from INDOT's Community Crossings Matching Grant. The City of Aurora will commit \$147,500.00 to use for the purpose of meeting the City of Aurora's local match obligation towards the total \$592,500 street improvement projects on Market St. and Second

Street. Between 2016 to 2018 over nine streets will have benefited from the INDOT Community Crossings program with grant awards totaling \$516,795 dollars for the City of Aurora.

Priority road re-pavement and temporary drainage swales were installed on Market St. in anticipation of future road reconstruction in 2022. Aurora Utilities installed a new water main on Main Street in 2017 with new water line to be installed on Second Street in our continuing work of upgrading infrastructure in the City. Following the utility improvements both streets will be fully paved. Community Crossings roadway project funding award will also focus on full Second Street pavement overlay between US 50 to Judiciary Street to include all new sidewalks, ADA ramps, inlets, pavement markings and signage. The city block of Second St. between Main Street and Judiciary Street will be converted into a two-way access street. Second Street utility improvements and Community Crossings project coordination is estimated to occur between March to July of 2018. For more information please contact Guinevere Emery, City Manager at 513-505-7647.

The City of Aurora designated the new park development located at 109 Judiciary Street, donated by Union Savings Bank in early 2015, 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 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, and 2 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. This was the site of the Aurora Market Place, concerts and fall in Love with Aurora events during 2017 as well.

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. 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, Guinevere Emery to sponsor custom benches for the Pergola Swing Corridor or park benches at Gabbard Riverfront Park. The custom Pergola Swing Corridor will be installed after the Second Street streetscape project is finished hopefully before the Aurora Farmers Fair in October.

Main Street Aurora is working to make a difference! In 2017 Main Street Aurora received the Office of Rural and Community Affairs accreditation for the Main Street America designation following strict criteria requirements. Hats off to Main St Aurora and their significant efforts towards revitalization and community engagement in Aurora.

Individuals interested in volunteering or contributing to the City of Aurora Bicentennial in 2019 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 in 2019. The ship will arrive on September 12, 2019; tours will take place September 13 through 16; will weigh anchor and depart on September 17. Come join the fun and be a part of history.

Sincerely submitted by City Manager Guinevere Emery