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Project Type: Bicycle/Pedestrian (bicycle lanes, sidewalks, other bicycle or pedestrian infrastructure, not including Greenway or Rail-to-Trails) related projects - Transportation & Public Works
General Program Goal: Social Well-Being

Previously Submitted and Rejected: No
Continuation Project: No

Project Total Cost: \$ 16,051,000 **Total Annual Operating Cost:** \$ 2,000

Abbreviated - Project Description: This project provides funding for the identification of areas in need of sidewalks and the design, and construction of those sidewalks in under-resourced Athens neighborhoods.

Project Location/Address: Various locations in Athens-Clarke County.

Is the Site currently owned by the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County? Yes

Is the Site within State Highway Rights-of-Way? No

Site Specific Information: The primary focus would be the implementation of sidewalks along local and collector roadways. The selection method could be tailored after the equity prioritization criteria used in Athens in Motion Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Ultimately, specific selection criteria will be determined in coordination between Athens in Motion Commission and Transportation and Public Works.

Does this Project require the acquisition of any land rights, whether existing sites, new site, easements, or Rights-of-Way? Unsure

Project/Program Description: Develop program for neighborhoods to request the installation of sidewalks. The program, once developed, will be used to allocate funds to install sidewalks to improve overall mobility by connecting people to important destinations such as recreation areas, work sites and social services and to improve the overall health and well-being of the residents. This program would supplement the Voluntary Sidewalk Assessment District program, which requires the neighborhood to fund the construction costs. This fiscal requirement prohibits many neighborhoods from installation projects. The program will first focus on developing an outreach program and a selection method for allocating funds. The selection method would be tailored after the equity prioritization criterion used in Athens in Motion Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

The overall project also aims to connect people to the larger network of bike and pedestrian infrastructure and to future facilities that will exist as identified and prioritized in the Athens in Motion plan.

Project Mission Statement/Selection Criteria: Project Mission Statement:

Providing funds for sidewalks to improve overall mobility by connecting people to important destinations.

Project Goal:

The goal of the project is to provide a mechanism for neighborhoods that, due to lack of financial means, cannot participate in the Volunteer Sidewalk Assessment Program. By achieving this goal it would:

- Reduce pedestrian usage of roadways. (Safety)
- Increase exercise and outdoor activities (Health)
- Reduce vehicular traffic (Maintains and improves air quality)

Selection Criteria;

The selection criteria would be fashioned after the equity prioritization criterion used in Athens in Motion Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The focus would be to prioritize those communities that cannot utilize the Volunteer Sidewalk Program.

How is this Project recommended/included in any approved ACCGov Land Use Plan, Master Plan, Corridor Study, or Service Delivery Plan? Athens in Motion Master Pedestrian and Bicycle plan. Athens in Motion was accepted by Mayor and Commission August 2018.

How is this Project included in the Madison Athens-Clarke County Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) long-range Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)? MACORTS Athens-Clarke Sidewalk Plan (project V-9)

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

How will the Project meet one or more of the Selection Criteria?

Promotes the Goal of improving Equitability of capital improvements throughout the Community:

This project provides a mechanism for under-resourced neighborhoods to obtain funding for sidewalks. More affluent neighborhoods have the option of self-taxing to pay for sidewalks. That is not an option in less affluent areas. This Small Sidewalks Program will increase equitability of capital improvements throughout the community.

Protects the community's existing Transportation Infrastructure Investments: The project will expand the existing pedestrian network and will connect residents to other county run transportation infrastructure investments thus increasing safe use of those investments.

Promotes the Upgrade and Continued Use of Alternative Transportation Facilities: The project will provide residents with alternative transport facilities and expand the Athens In Motion network by providing neighborhood residents with an alternative to walking in the same space as vehicular traffic. Many residents

in under-resourced areas must walk in "goat paths" or in vehicle lanes of busy streets to reach their destinations and Transit stops. This Small Sidewalks Program will fund sidewalks construction in areas where most needed.

Promotes increased access to existing public facilities: By adding sidewalks to neighborhoods, it will make access to existing public facilities safer by removing pedestrians from walking in areas of vehicular traffic.

Promotes increased usage of the Transit System, including improving Pedestrian access to Transit Facilities: Neighborhood sidewalks would include tying sidewalks to nearby bus stops, where feasible, making it easier and more enjoyable to walk to these stops. Improving access to Transit will enable riders of all abilities to use this system. This will attract more Transit users.

Maintains or Improves Air Quality: Providing safe sidewalks will increase pedestrian traffic as an alternative to using a motor vehicle. Walking creates no air pollution and therefore improves air quality.

Reduces vehicle miles traveled and traffic congestion: Providing safe sidewalks will increase pedestrian traffic as an alternative to using a motor vehicle.

Reduces time spent traveling in vehicles: Providing safe sidewalks will increase pedestrian traffic as an alternative to using a motor vehicle.

Continues TSPLOST 2018 Corridor Improvements or transportation related safety improvements: Safety is an important goal of the Small Sidewalks Program. When people are forced to walk in vehicle travel lanes, they are at increased risk of serious injury or death from crashes. This Small Sidewalks Program will address risks faced by pedestrians on a daily basis by creating safe walkways that are separated from traffic. It also furthers the goal of the TSPLOST 2018 Pedestrian Improvements Program

Promotes Health and Safety: Providing safe sidewalks will increase pedestrian traffic as an alternative to using a motor vehicle.

Walking 30 minutes daily improves cardiovascular health, strengthens bones, promotes weight loss, builds muscles, and increases aerobic endurance, according to the Mayo Clinic

Walking has mental health benefits as well, according to the NIH.

Separating pedestrians from vehicular traffic increases safety for those who do not - or choose not to - drive, according to the US Department of Transportation.

Easy access to parks, greenways, and trails enables and encourages people to exercise, while also exposing them to nature, improving psychological, physical, and social well-being.

Continues Sidewalk & Multi-Use Trail construction: This project fills in many of the small sidewalk gaps that were not prioritized as part of the Athens in Motion plan. By funding this program, Athens can focus on larger scale projects while also addressing community needs and requests for infrastructure sooner than later.

Implements components of an updated Greenway Network Plan: While the Greenway Network Plan primarily focuses on natural areas along the 100-year floodplain, a major goal of the Greenway Network Plan is connectivity to neighborhoods and public amenities. While this project doesn't explicitly build Greenway connections, many of the proposed projects could contribute toward this connectivity.

Triple Bottom Line Impacts

Positive Benefits for the Economic Prosperity of Athens-Clarke County: Sidewalks increase the ability for customers to reach stores, restaurants, etc., and for employees to reach their jobs.

Sidewalks also reduce risks to people walking. Fatalities and injuries not only hurt a community, literally, but also decrease property values and these events negatively impact the local economy.

Finally, sidewalks improve the appearance of neighborhoods, which makes the entire community more attractive to businesses and increases residential property values.

Detrimental Impacts to the Economic Prosperity of Athens-Clarke County: n/a

Positive Benefits for the Social Well-Being of our Residents and visitors: By providing a safe pathway for pedestrians to walk it will increase the number of individuals who can access social services and recreation areas who previously could not because they cannot afford a motor vehicle. Increased foot traffic within a neighborhood will also increase community interaction.

Per the Athens Wellbeing Project report, Improved Sidewalks ranked in the top 5 requested Amenities in the three High School reports. The rankings were 2, 2, and 5 for each of the three High Schools.

Detrimental Impacts for the Social Well-Being of our Residents and visitors: n/a

Positive Impacts on the Environment: Sidewalks have many positive impacts on the environment. They reduce erosion from water run-off and damage from careless drivers. More attractive neighborhoods discourage littering. Finally, new sidewalk construction provides an opportunity to plant trees and pollinator-friendly landscaping in traffic buffers.

Detrimental Impacts on the Environment: There will be short-term environmental impacts during construction. It is also possible that trees in the rights-of-way will be lost or damaged. Long-term, however,

the environment will improve as more people walk rather than drive short distances and any reduction in vehicular traffic reduces emissions.

Positive/Negative Impacts on ACCGov Departments, Agencies, or other Organizations, if not covered in one of the above questions: ACCGov will enjoy many benefits as a result of this Small Sidewalks Program. First, it is an economical, easy, and visible way to increase allocation of resources to under-resourced areas. Second, giving neighborhoods a way to improve street scaping will discourage littering and improve the appearance around homes and businesses. Third, sidewalk construction adds to AiM network which is a TPW goal. Finally, investing in underserved neighborhoods demonstrates ACCGov's commitment to Equity

Project Costs

Detailed project capital budget costs (to be funded from TSPLOST 2023 only):

Project Costs (round to thousand)	Amount
1. Land Acquisition / ROW / Easement:	\$ 1,000,000
2. Design Fees: (Min.12% of New Const.; 14% of reno,; 16% for LEED proj.)	\$ 1,200,000
3. Miscellaneous Fees: (Min. Minimum of 3% of Construction Costs – used for permitting, etc. Utilize minimum of 10% if land acquisition if necessary.	\$ 400,000
4. Construction:	\$ 9,700,000
5. Construction Contingency: (10% of the Construction line item)	\$ 970,000
6. Acquisition of Capital Equipment	\$
7. Testing:	\$ 400,000
8. Project Management: (4% of the total budget line items above)	\$ 547,000
9. Project Contingency: (10% of the total budget line items above)	\$ 1,422,000
10. Public Art: Calculated at 1% of the Construction line item.	\$ 97,000
11. Other 1:	\$
12. Other 2:	\$
Project Subtotal:	\$ 15,736,000
14. Program Management (2% of Project Subtotal):	\$ 315,000
TSPLOST 2023 Project Total:	\$ 16,051,000

Operating Cost

Total Annual Net Operating Costs when Project is complete:

Only identify additional or net operating costs to be paid by ACCGov as a result of this Project. Identify the additional or net costs needed, above ACCGov's current operating budget, to operate the requested project; as well as any additional Project related revenues that would be generated. Provide budget costs for each identified category below.

Operating Costs (round to thousand)	Estimated Impact for Annual Operating Expenditures
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUES FROM PROJECT	
PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	
1. Personnel Costs: from Appendix A	
2. Annual Utilities:	
• Natural Gas:	
• Electrical:	
• Water:	
• Sewer:	
• Phone:	
• Solid Waste Collection:	
• Other:	
3. Operating Supplies:	
4. Equipment Maintenance:	
5. Facility Maintenance:	1,000
6. Other: Public Art Maintenance	1,000
7. Other:	
8. Other:	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	
NET OPERATING COSTS OF PROJECT:	\$ 2,000

Project Financing

Is the proposed Project to receive funding from source(s) other than TSPLOST 2023? No