

USE OF MACI FUNDS FOR SOUTH CENTRAL ARTERIALS PROJECT

Background: The South Central Arterials project is being funded by the South Arterial earmark. It has always been anticipated that the project would require additional funding, above the fixed amount available from the earmark. Currently, about \$3.6 million is available for right of way acquisition, utility relocation and construction.

Three options for 24th Avenue South have been considered by the engineer:

Option 1: curb/gutter and a path between 13th St and 20th St, separated path and rural section (with ditch drainage) between 20th Street to 26th Street. Est. Cost: \$5.4 million. Shortfall: \$1.7 million.

Option 1a: curb/gutter and path entire length. Est. Cost: \$6.2 million. Shortfall: \$2.6 million.

Option 2: rural section entire length, no path. Est. Cost: \$4.5 million. Shortfall: \$900,000.

To fully fund the South Central Arterials Project, TAC and PCC may commit MACI (Montana Air and Congestion Initiative) funds to the project. The Project will improve flow around south-central Great Falls, attract traffic from congested 10th Avenue South, and provide for bike/pedestrian movements along the corridor. These actions will improve air quality in the region, making it a good candidate for use of MACI funds.

The project is currently projected to be constructed in 2015. In reviewing the balance for the MACI Program, there are adequate funds available to supplement the South Central Arterial Project. It is currently estimated that a balance of more than \$4 million will be available in 2015.

The improvements are expected to attract development, especially on the eastern end, and urban growth will occur. To anticipate future needs and demands, staff has identified Option 1a as the preferred option, constructing the project to urban standards with curb, gutter and bike/ped facilities the length of 24th Avenue South. Staff does not recommend Option 2, and prefers Option 1a over Option 1.

Recommendation: Staff recommends TAC discuss construction options and commit an appropriate amount of MACI funds to the project.

Suggested Action: An appropriate action by TAC would be to commit up to \$1.8 million OR up to \$2.6 Million in MACI funds to the South Central Arterials Project, and recommend commitment of the same by PCC.

Attachment: Updated Project Budgets and Funding