

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO

South Drake Road Corridor Improvement Authority (SoDA)

June 29, 2016

SoDA Board meeting was held at the Township Hall. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Ashley at 12:03 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Corey Ashley, Vice Chair
Kelly Bringman
Libby Heiny-Cogswell
Dale Shugars
Joe Gesmundo
Dennis Patzer, Treasurer

Theresa Spurr, Chair arrived at 12:10 pm

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Deb Jung
Jackie Kimble

Also present were Planning Director Julie Johnston and Township Attorney James Porter.

Minutes

None.

Public Comment

None.

Drake Road Non-Motorized Path Construction Costs

Ms. Johnston gave a summary of the memo provided in the agenda packet.

The MDOT Grant Coordinator informed our consulting firm, VIRIDIS, that as long as the Drake Road Path located on the Corner@Drake shopping center property met the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards, the grant for the remainder of the path would not be in jeopardy. This opens the door for SoDA to consider paying for the path so that it might be constructed earlier. However, there are some things to consider.

While the construction of the path will be less, (VIRIDIS indicated it could be up to 30 to 40 percent less than originally considered) it is still more than the 40 percent which would be spent if completed under the MDOT Transportation Alternative Grant (grant covers 60 percent and local municipality covers 40 percent of total costs). Below are the possible dollar amounts to consider per the Drake Road Path budget developed by VIRIDIS:

	Approx. Costs
Total Path Costs	\$1,035,639
40% of Total Costs	\$414,225
Corner@Drake Path Costs (Under MDOT grant)	\$132,182
If Constructed by AVB (approximate cost)	\$92,528
40% of Cost if Paid for by MDOT Grant	\$52,873

These numbers do not take into account the properties between the Corner@Drake shopping center and West Michigan. Currently, the Township is working to complete the Safety Grant path, which will run from Green Meadow Drive south to West Michigan. The completion of the path on the Corner@Drake property would leave a gap until the project can be completed with the MDOT grant, which would likely be around one year.

We also heard from the MDOT Grant Coordinator that the development of the path on the Corner@Drake property could not be used towards the 40 percent costs the Township must pay as part of the grant.

In the end, the SoDA/Township would end up paying approximately \$40,000 more for the construction of the path than if all of it was covered by the MDOT grant.

At the June 8th meeting, two additional items were discussed that effect the development of the path. The first and most important is that SoDA voted to approve funding for the maintenance of the path after it is built. The second discussion item was one of the reasons for the offer to complete the path by AVB, which was the concern that landscaping would be destroyed if the path is built after construction is complete at the Corner@Drake property. Attorney James Porter offered a solution to this concern; a reprieve from landscaping installation along Drake Road until after the path is completed.

While having AVB complete the path may be more expedient and less expensive for this segment, the overall costs for the path in its entirety will actually be more. Based on this concern and the offer from the Township to allow a delay in landscaping along Drake Road, staff recommends including all of the Drake Road Non-Motorized Path as part of either the current Safety Grant or upcoming MDOT Transportation Alternative Grant.

Ms. Heiny-Cogswell stated that MDOT is committed to the project and she is confident the grant will be approved.

Mr. Gesmundo reiterated that if the Township is willing to defer landscaping for their project along Drake Road until the path can be built, this might be the best solution.

Chair Spurr stated that if it is just the difference between waiting one year to get the path built between the Authority paying for it now and MDOT providing a grant, we should wait the year and have 60 percent of the costs paid.

Mr. Patzer indicated that the information we have available today is that some or most of the path will be built in 2017. Something could come up that forestalls the development, but we don't know that today.

Mr. Gesmundo also indicated that site plan approvals at Corner@Drake were contingent on the path being installed within a certain period of time. This will also have to be waived.

Mr. Porter indicated that there needs to be a consensus on whether to wait on the MDOT grant to build the path.

The members of the Authority in attendance agreed that waiting for the MDOT grant funding and providing a deferment to AVB on landscaping and the construction of the path was the best solution.

Any Other Business

Ms. Johnston stated that the Authority needs to have their 2017 budget ready for the Township Board by the 29th of July. She asked the Authority members in attendance to set the next meeting.

There was some discussion on what should be included in the budget, i.e. construction costs for the match requirements of the grant, maintenance of the 10-foot path, etc. Concern was whether the Authority had to cover the full 40 percent match for the grant.

Ms. Heiny-Cogswell indicated that the Authority was created for this purpose. Mr. Gesmundo and Mr. Patzer agreed.

Chair Spurr asked about the match for the Safety Grant.

Ms. Heiny-Cogswell stated that the match for this grant should also be considered when looking at the Authority's budget. Because of budget constraints, the Authority could pay back the Township over time.

Mr. Porter stated that a better understanding of adjusted budgets based on the new development occurring in the district as well as the Authority's long term projects is needed to understand how to structure a repayment to the Township.

The Authority set their next meeting for Wednesday, July 20 at 1:00 pm at the Township Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:24 p.m.

Minutes prepared:
July 11, 2016

Minutes approved:
July 20, 2016