

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

Public Works Committee

Issue Briefing

Topic: CIP Small Infrastructure Project 131 Cynwyd Road

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Date: May 11, 2018

I. Action To Be Considered By The Board:

Approve a small infrastructure CIP project at 131 Cynwyd Road improving the intersection turning radius by modifying the curb, sidewalk and street with the property owner sharing the cost.

II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:

The 2018 CIP budget includes funding for small infrastructure projects. The total funding for this CIP program in 2018 is \$150,000. Projects to be considered for funding require Board of Commissioners (BOC) approval.

III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable):

Staff drafted a policy with a list of criteria to be used to determine which projects would qualify for CIP funding. This policy was approved by the BOC in April 2017.

IV. Other Relevant Background Information:

The CIP Small Infrastructure Staff Committee in 2017 reviewed recommended projects submitted by Commissioners to determine if they are eligible for CIP Infrastructure Project funding based on the criteria prepared by staff and approved by the BOC. Some of the approved projects are still in process of implementation and two have been completed. The review process will be completed again for 2018 projects submitted for consideration but this small project on Cynwyd Road needs prompt consideration because, if approved, it will need to be completed before the road is paved by the Township in July or August.

This proposed project suggested by Commissioner Manos was on the list in 2017 but there was not enough detail, design or cost information to allow it to proceed. The project consists of the following:

Increase the curb radius at the bend in front of 131 Cynwyd Road, including the relocation of sidewalk to accommodate a wider curb radius. There is agreement with the property owner at 131 Cynwyd Road that the cost of the project, if approved, would be shared equally by the Township and the property owner. The property owner has provided a cost estimate quote for the project or \$6,400. A plan showing the proposed widening is attached.

The proposed approach is for the property owner to privately contract for the road, sidewalk and curb work and then after inspection by the Township the \$3,200 Township cost share would be released to the property owner.

Staff assigned a point value of 25 to this project in 2017 but it would score substantially higher currently since it is now a project with definition and is ready to proceed. At a total project cost of \$6,400 it is under the policy intention to fund projects in the \$10,000 to \$50,000 range.

This street is a narrow, congested street and many homes have no off-street parking so the 90 degree turn on the street combined with parked cars lining one side clearly forces some traffic up onto and over the sidewalk at 131 Cynwyd Road. While the turning movement could be eased by prohibiting parking at the bend which would eliminate 3 or 4 parking spaces there is no other accessible parking for residents along this street.

The criteria established for determining whether projects are eligible for funding and the point values used to judge projects are included below but the board of Commissioners can vary from the criteria.

CIP Infrastructure Project Criteria

Project costs in the \$10,000 to \$50,000 range.

Project must be within the public right-of-way or on a property with a public easement.

Projects must have a minimum 10-year lifespan with a preference for a 20-year lifespan.

Project Evaluation Criteria and suggested point system used during the staff evaluation. All projects can be assigned less than the total point values listed below.

1. Project can be completed in less than one year, including the design work. (8 points)
2. Project can be completed efficiently using Township staff. (10 points)
3. Preference for projects with access to additional (non-Township) funding sources. (10 points)
4. Project addresses a goal or objective in the Comprehensive Plan. (12 points)
5. Project creates a link or connection to an adjacent community or a public facility. (12 points)
6. There is adequate local community support for the project. (13 points)
7. The project helps address safety concerns. (15 points)
8. There is an accident history the project will potentially improve or correct. (20 points)

V. Impact On Township Finances:

The BOC approved \$150,000 infrastructure funding in the CIP for 2018. The project would utilize \$3,200 of that funding.

VI. Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the BOC authorize a small infrastructure CIP project at 131 Cynwyd Road improving the intersection turning radius as designed, sharing the cost with the property owner and with a Township contribution of \$3,200.