



Welton Street Corridor: Recission and Reappropriation

Finance and Governance Committee
April 13, 2021

Council Request

Item 21-0279:

Approves the rescission and reappropriation of \$1,000,000 in capital improvement funds from Welton Parking Garage Improvements (2016) to fund various infrastructure improvements and supporting activities in the northeast downtown neighborhoods in Council District 9.

**language changed from “Five Points neighborhood” to “northeast downtown neighborhoods.”*

Current Appropriation

- **Funding:** \$1 million from 2016—originally from the Office of Economic Development (OED), now Denver Economic Development & Opportunity (DEDO).
- **Funding Source:** Capital Improvement Funds. Funding must be used for a City-owned, infrastructure asset.
- **Existing appropriation language:** To leverage funding to complete construction of parking infrastructure along the Welton Corridor. It is anticipated that this investment will serve as a catalyst for economic development in the Welton neighborhood.

Original Project (2015-2016)

- Shared parking structure, way finding, and other access improvements.
 - Through strategic discussions with neighborhood, city and business leaders at the time, OED aimed to attract an anchor retail business, such as a local grocery market or other major retailer, but the lack of publicly available parking posed a challenge.
- The original project was expected to cost \$7-8M.
- The City pursued an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant, which required \$1M in match for federal funds.

Status of Original Project

- The City was not successful with the EDA grant opportunity.
- A possible retail anchor opportunity did not materialize.
- Evolving community need shifted the economic development strategy for the Welton Corridor.

Reappropriation

\$1M of DEDO funding

- Funding will continue as Capital Improvement Funds.
- Funding to remain with DEDO, maintaining original intent for capital infrastructure to support economic development.
- Funding will be reappropriated from the specific, limited use to a broader use.

Northeast Downtown Neighborhoods Infrastructure Improvements.

- Funds will be used for various infrastructure improvements in northeast downtown neighborhoods to continue to support business activity and the local economy.
- Projects utilizing DEDO funds will be prioritized to support business activity and the local economy.

Next Steps

If funding is approved by City Council:

- Multi-departmental coordination to identify infrastructure projects that support economic development.
- Work with City Council and community to review and finalize project opportunities and potential timelines.
- A phased implementation of projects to support local business and aid pandemic recovery.