



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Collaborative solutions for a promising future

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Date: January 21, 2016

To: Community Leaders, Environmental Officers & Coordinating Agencies

TRB From: **Terry R. Brinkman**, Community & Economic Development Data Specialist, Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development

RE: Washtenaw Avenue Sidewalk Project, Pittsfield Township and Ypsilanti Township 2014 CDBG and 2015 CDBG – Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on the Environment and Notice to Public of Intent to Request for Release of Funds (RROF) from HUD Notice

Attached you will find a copy of the Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact on the Environment and the Notice of Request for Release of Funds for the Washtenaw Avenue Sidewalk Project located in Pittsfield Township and Ypsilanti Township to be funded by 2014-, and 2015- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

The notice will be posted in the Ann Arbor News on January 21, 2016 and sent directly to various local units of government, non-profit agencies, community leaders and environmental agencies. Please contact me if you have questions or comments about this notice or the projects included at (734) 544-2985 or brinkmat@ewashtenaw.org.

Thanks.

**COMBINED NOTICE
NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT
AND NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

January 21, 2016

Washtenaw County
415 W. Michigan Ave., Suite 2200, P.O. Box 915
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(734) 544-6747

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about **February 9, 2016**, Washtenaw County will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of 2014 and 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended, to undertake a project known as the Washtenaw Avenue Sidewalk Project located on the south side of Washtenaw Ave. from Crystal Dr. to Golfside Dr. in Pittsfield Township and the north side of Washtenaw Ave. from Golfside Dr. to approximately 220 feet west of Boston Ave. in Ypsilanti Township in the amount of \$183,271 from 2014 CDBG funding, \$199,658 from 2015 CDBG funding.

The project will provide new sidewalks in the project corridor in the gaps between existing sidewalks as well as crosswalks of intersecting streets in the project corridor, including two signaled crosswalks, one of which is located across Washtenaw Ave. between the properties located at 2864 Washtenaw Ave. and 2867 Washtenaw Ave. and the other at the Fountain Square and Fountain Plaza shopping center entrance located between the properties located at 2864 Washtenaw Ave. and 2874 Washtenaw Ave. The project will provide a 5-foot wide new sidewalk that is approximately 4,320 linear feet in length along the Washtenaw Ave. Corridor. The total square footage of the new sidewalk pavement is approximately 21,600 square feet. The project includes the construction of ADA-compliant sidewalk ramps. The sidewalk will be comprised of concrete 4 inches thick, with approximately 4 inches of sand underneath the concrete. The project includes the removal of approximately 18 trees and the relocation of one tree. Six signs will be relocated and an existing fence will be removed and replaced. A retaining wall will be reconstructed. Approximately 85 feet of existing sidewalk adjacent to the property located at 4896 Washtenaw Ave. will be removed and replaced.

This project is a collaboration between Pittsfield Township and Ypsilanti Township for pedestrian accessibility that will ensure, over a course of time, seamless sidewalk integration and accessibility not just within both Pittsfield Township and Ypsilanti Township but cross-jurisdictionally between Pittsfield and Ypsilanti Townships with potential for pedestrian accessibility expansion to other adjacent communities. Over the past five years, Pittsfield Township, along with Ypsilanti Township and Cities of Ann Arbor & Ypsilanti, with coordination by Washtenaw County, have been engaged in the Reimagine Washtenaw initiative to revitalize the Washtenaw Avenue corridor between approximately the Washtenaw/Stadium split on the west to the water tower in Ypsilanti on the east. Specifically, the Reimagine Washtenaw Right of Way study calls for pedestrian and multi-modal amenities and accessibility as an essential first step. To build on the work being completed at the Washtenaw County Service Center at the corner of Carpenter/Hogback and Washtenaw, Pittsfield and Ypsilanti Townships jointly proposed this sidewalk installation to promote pedestrian accessibility to transit stops and provide for gap-filling to the existing sidewalk network along the Washtenaw Ave. Corridor. The sidewalk installations will promote safer pedestrian accessibility to existing and proposed bus stops along the Washtenaw corridor. Recent pedestrian improvements and bike lane installation along Golfside (cross-jurisdictional road between Pittsfield & Ypsilanti) will be further enhanced by additional sidewalk installation. The total estimated development costs for the project are \$382,929.

This publication is for the combined notice to the public of a Finding of No Significant Impact on the Environment and notice to the Public of a Request for Release of Funds (combined FONSI/NOI-RROF)

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Washtenaw County has prepared an Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the aforementioned project and has determined and gives notice that the project and the request for release of funds will have no significant impact on the human environment and accordingly, Washtenaw County has decided not to

prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190). The reasons for such decision not to prepare such Statement are as follows:

The project and activities proposed are not of sufficient size, scale, or mass and do not exceed the threshold criteria established for the preparation of a statement; the adverse impacts on the physical or natural environment are negligible and other impacts are beneficial; the projects will make no significant increased demand on public services and will create no pollution impacts; the extent of any environmental impact of the activities and projects, whether beneficial or adverse are such that there will be no significant effect on the environment. An Environmental Review Record of the described activities has been made by Washtenaw County, which documents the environmental review of the activities and project and more fully sets forth the reasons why such Statement is not required. The project is identified as environmentally assessed and an Environmental Assessment was prepared. The Environmental Review Record is on file in the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development, 415 W. Michigan Ave., Suite 2200, Ypsilanti, MI, and is available for public examination and copying, upon request during the weekday hours of 8:30 AM to 5 PM. No further environmental review of activities is proposed to be conducted, prior to the release of Federal funds.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR for consideration by Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development. Such written comments should be received at the address listed above on or before **February 5, 2016**. All such comments so received will be considered and the County will not request the release of Federal funds or take any administrative action on the described activities prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

Washtenaw County is certifying to HUD that the Washtenaw County and Verna J. McDaniel in her official capacity as County Administrator; consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, Washtenaw County may use the funds, and HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

OBJECTIONS TO THE RELEASE OF FUNDS:

HUD will accept objections to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if it is on one of the following bases: a) That the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer or other officer of applicant approved by HUD; or b) that Washtenaw County's environmental review records for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding, or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process; or c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or d) another federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76), and may be addressed to HUD at its Area Office, 15th Floor, Patrick V. McNamara Building, 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48226. No objection received after **February 24, 2016** will be considered by HUD.

Verna J. McDaniel, County Administrator
220 N. Main
P.O. Box 8645
Ann Arbor, MI 48107