Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

City Hall Council Chambers
57 N. Liberty Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tuesday, August 4, 2020
5:30 p.m.

This meeting was held via Video-Conference

PRESENT: Raymond M. Morriss, President; Council Members: Seth Bernard, Richard Cioni, Eugene Frazier, and Laurie Marchini.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey D. Rhodes, City Administrator; Michael S. Cohen, City Solicitor; Marjorie Woodring, City Clerk, Bobby Smith, City Engineer; EBA Engineering Consultants

I. CUMBERLAND STREET BRIDGE UPDATE

City Engineer Robert Smith provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Cumberland Street Bridge Replacement, and advised that the project is federally funded using the Federal Highway Program, with EBA Engineering being the selected consultant from the State Highway Administration (SHA). He stated that the project is in the 30% stage, and the reason for the Presentation this evening is to adhere to the National Environmental Protection Act requirements for public input at this stage. Mr. Smith then introduced Spencer Lee, PE, Project Manager for EBA Engineering, and Cara Johnson, PE, Structural Engineer, EBA Engineering.

Mr. Smith provided background on the Cumberland Street Bridge, which was built in 1929, and was closed on November 17, 2017 due to structural deficiencies. He provided photos of the deterioration, and stated that the bridge is in dire need of replacement. Mr. Smith stated that under this project they are proposing to reconstruction the bridge in a similar size and clearance, which will meet the SHA and vertical requirements of CSX of twenty-one feet, nine inches (21'9"). He added that there is plenty of latitude for whichever structural system is chosen, and stated that they are looking at two options to present to the SHA either this month or early September, after corrections are done to some of the drawings corrected. Mr. Smith reviewed the two options:

OPTION 1 – Single Span Steel Girder System

- Zero vertical members underneath the bridge, aside from abutments
- No need for interior supports
- Requires more steel because will be spanning a longer distance
- Repainting on a regular basis – 8-10 years
- Looking at using a weathering steel that resists corrosion, or galvanized steel

Mr. Smith provided views of the bridge superstructure and substructure, and explained specifications on the drawings of Option 1.

OPTION 2 – Three Span Concreted Grid System

- Two interior supports means thinner superstructure depth
- Requires more work at the track level to building the foundations
- Additional man-hours needed

Mr. Smith provided views of the cut section of the bridge, stating that this option has the same dimensions as Option 1, but has concrete beams instead of steel.

Mr. Smith advised on the sequence of construction, saying they expect to do the project in a single phase to take advantage of the fact that Cumberland Street is currently closed. He added that the completed bridge will look very similar to the Valley and Market Street Bridges, with lighting improvements and a chain link fence above the parapet wall.

II. QUESTIONS

Mayor Morriss inquired about sidewalks on the bridge, with Mr. Smith replying there would be sidewalks on both sides. He added that the bridge will still be two lanes, and will be owned by the City. In answer to a question about the life expectancy of the new bridge, Mr. Smith advised that with it being well maintained and properly drained, it could last 30-50 years. He added that there will be minimal costs at the early stages, with aging bringing more costs. Mr. Smith also wanted to remind Council that this project is replacing the entire bridge, not just the superstructure.

Council inquired if Engineering is leaning towards one of the options. Mr. Smith stated that it will come down to cost and advised on the differences between concrete and steel. He said that they will speak with the SHA and get their comments, but advised that he's leaning towards steel, unless estimates show concrete as the winner.

Mayor Morriss asked for a time frame for phases and when construction can begin. Mr. Smith advised that construction can begin in April of 2022 if all goes well. Once they get approval for final engineering, it will be a year to get the package out on the street. He added that they will submit contract documents to the SHA in October of next year, and the hope is to get the project done as soon as possible. He added further that once they get the bids they have to get concurrence of the award from the SHA.

Mr. Smith advised that the recording of this meeting will be posted and said the public is free to email him at robert.smith@cumberlandmd.gov and submit their comments by 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 7, 2020. He stated that all comments will be considered and he will provide a response back. He added that he will pass the comments on to EBA and the SHA for consideration on this project.

II. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie A. Woodring
City Clerk

Minutes approved October 6, 2020