

**BRIEFING PAPER**  
**Public Works Committee**  
**North Monroe Corridor Advisory Board**  
**May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

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**Subject:**

A resolution creating the North Monroe Corridor Advisory Board. The Board will assist the City in finalizing the scope for N. Monroe Improvements by creating an accessible process to engage the broader community and solicit input.

**Background:**

A major project to improve safety, enhance the streetscape, and reconfigure traffic is planned for the North Monroe Corridor starting north of Indiana to Keirnan Street. The project will improve pedestrian access and create a more cohesive business area, while continuing to support traffic volumes. The City received two grants totaling \$4.1 million to improve pedestrian safety along Monroe from north of Indiana to Cora Ave. The proposed project calls for an enhanced pedestrian environment to include a three-lane section with a center turn lane, decorative pedestrian lighting, benches, transit shelters, new sidewalks, street trees, pavement rebuild, and stormwater management, among other things. Project elements are supported by the Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood Plan which was adopted via resolution by City Council in 2015.

Integrated Capital Management, in coordination with Planning, is developing a public outreach program to supplement the work already done by the neighborhood. While the neighborhood plan is aspirational, this project is in the implementation phase. Additional public participation is needed to fine-tune ideas and look at the area specifically within project boundaries. Input on construction scheduling also is important, as is assistance for businesses in “surviving construction.”

With a target of delivering the project to the design team early in the first quarter of 2017, outreach and engagement needs to begin this spring with most outreach work concluded by the end of the year. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2018.

In support this work, staff first is proposing the creation of a citizen advisory board to assist the City with outreach to interested stakeholders and the public and developing final recommendations for the project. The board should include representatives from businesses and property owners along the project, neighborhood representatives, and others. It is recommended that the North Monroe Advisory Board shall consist of seven to nine members; members will be selected by the City Council with one at large member selected by the Mayor. City Council members from district three will serve on the Board as non-voting members.

To deliver project timely, public outreach and engagement on large projects will occur during this final concept and scoping phase, allowing design to move forward more efficiently. This plan for North Monroe is consistent with that approach.

**Action:**

Recommend Council approval of the resolution creating the North Monroe Corridor Advisory Board.