Moab City Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date: March xx, 2020

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Title: Downtown Parking Structure Discussion and Potential Action

Date Submitted: March 12, 2020

Staff Presenter: Joel Linares, City Manager

Attachment(s):

- Resolution 15-2020, A Resolution Directing the Renegotiation of the UDOT Agreement and Terminating the Design Contract for the Downtown Parking Structure Project and Directing Coordination with UDOT and Grand County to Pursue Alternative Projects for Hotspot Funding
- Resolution 33-2019, A Resolution Approving a Cooperative Agreement with the Utah Department of Transportation for Construction of a Downtown Parking Structure
- Cooperative Agreement with UDOT for the Downtown Parking Structure
- Consulting Services Contract with Kimley-Horn & Associates
- Letter from UDOT granting six-month extension

Options: Approve, deny, or modify

Recommended Motion: I move to approve Resolution 15-2020, A Resolution Directing the Renegotiation of the UDOT Agreement and Terminating the Design Contract for the Downtown Parking Structure Project and Directing Coordination with UDOT and Grand County to Pursue Alternative Projects for Hotspot Funding

Background/Summary:

In 2019, the UDOT was tasked with administering the distribution of $100 million of “Hotspot” funding to areas with significant congestion related to recreation and tourism activity, for transportation improvements which met the three broad goals set by the Utah Legislature of congestion reduction, improved recreation access, and economic development, and which would be awarded via a competitive process. Moab was identified as one of these Hotspot regions eligible for funds.

UDOT implemented a stakeholder group and process in the Moab area to identify capital projects which would score well in more detailed criteria established by UDOT. The stakeholder group identified a range of possible projects, which were scored relative to more granular criteria descending from the broad goals set by the Legislature. The projects identified from this process were one or more parking structures in downtown Moab, more efficient use of existing surface parking lots (“dispersed parking”) serving other areas and additional vehicle types, and 191/Main St. improvements to increase pedestrian safety and calm traffic.
$10 million was awarded to Moab for these projects, the majority going to the design and construction of the Downtown Parking Structure (DPS). On May 28, 2019, the City Council approved a Cooperative Agreement with UDOT for the design and construction of the DPS, and in October 2019, the City Council approved a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, for DPS design work.

Recently, issues regarding the DPS as not being an optimal use of Hotspot funds has grown because of the expense of the project, lack of community engagement at the beginning of the selection process, and the specificity of the location. Currently, in the absence of public and the majority of downtown business support and lack of endorsement to spend public funds on the DPS from both local government bodies, some members of the City Council have expressed a desire to select an alternative project for the Hotspot money. UDOT and the Transportation Commission have given the City until September 1, 2020 to identify and define this alternative project or projects. To this end, the proposed resolution provides for the following process to develop Hotspot-funded project alternatives:

1. A “stop work” order will be issued for the Kimley-Horn design contract; and City staff will develop a path forward to renegotiate the Cooperative Agreement with UDOT.
2. City staff will engage with UDOT to determine a process by which an alternative project or projects may be identified and selected for the Hotspot Funds. Grand County will also be engaged to participate in these efforts.
3. The City will coordinate with Grand County to form the Arches Hotspot Region Coordinating Committee, a body which will be used to identify and evaluate potential projects, and help to determine the alternative project or projects to be paid for using the Hotspot Funds.