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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Michael Smith, Public Works Director

Date: May 23, 2022

Subject: **Georgetown Gateway Project Enhancements and Construction Updates**

ACTION

Discuss adding public art to the project and removing the brick paver bands in the sidewalk.

SUMMARY

The design plans for the project call for brick paver bands spaced throughout much of the concrete sidewalk. These plans were first developed several years ago and since that time the city's development standards have shifted away from the use of pavers and other types of decorative sidewalk. Recently, the city's Arts Commission has recommended allocating 1% of budget for large construction projects to public art. Staff is recommending removal of the brick paver bands from the construction contract for a savings of \$332,000 and using \$65,000 of the savings for public art to compliment the other enhancements included in the project.

DETAILS

Vertical elements such as landscaping, trees, decorative streetlights, benches, (all of which are included within this project) and public art have a more substantial visual impact and place-making influence than elements on the ground. Pavers and decorative concrete sidewalks are also difficult to maintain long-term. Utility and roadwork often require removal of sections of the sidewalk and the sidewalk ages, shifts and crack over time. Regular concrete sidewalks tends to be more rugged, maintain a more consistent look over time and are much easier and inexpensive to replace when necessary.

Construction Progress

The utility relocation phase of the Georgetown Gateway project has been underway for almost a year. In this time the new water and gas mains have been replaced throughout the corridor and most of the overhead utilities north of Old Spring House Lane have been moved to new poles. Remaining utility work includes Georgia Power and Comcast relocation of overhead lines south of Old Spring House Lane and AT&T relocation of overhead and underground lines throughout the construction zone. Based on the progress of the utility work the city's contractor, Lewallen Construction, has been able to begin work on the north end of the project.

RECOMMENDATION

For the reasons outlined above, staff is recommending removal of the brick pavers from the contract at a cost savings of \$332,000 and adding \$65,000 for public art.