



**MEETING DATE:** August 11, 2020

**ITEM NUMBER:** 9.L

**SECOND READING:**

{{customfields.ResoOrdNumber}}

**TYPE OF ITEM:** Consent

**PRESENTED BY:**

Dale Rademacher, City Manager's Office, Dale.Rademacher@longmontcolorado.gov

Jim Angstadt, PWNR Engineering, Jim.Angstadt@longmontcolorado.gov

Josh Sherman, PWNR Engineering, Josh.Sherman@longmontcolorado.gov

Nick Wolfrum, PWNR Engineering, Nick.Wolfrum@longmontcolorado.gov

**SUBJECT/AGENDA TITLE:**

**A Resolution Of The Longmont City Council Approving The Project Partnership Intergovernmental Agreement Between The City Of Longmont And Department Of The Army For St. Vrain Creek Flood Risk Management Project Under Section 205**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Resilient St. Vrain is Longmont's extensive, multi-year project to fully restore the St. Vrain Greenway and improve the St. Vrain Creek channel to protect people, property, and infrastructure from future flood risk. Following the 2013 Flood, the City began the design and construction of the Resilient St. Vrain Project (RSVP). This project will remove large portions of the community from the 100-yr. floodplain on St. Vrain Creek while completing channel improvements in the most environmentally sensitive manner possible. This long-term project is being constructed in phases as funding becomes available. The first three phases of the project are complete: Sandstone Ranch Reach, City Reach 1 (Main Street to Left Hand Creek), and City Reach 2A (Colorado Way to Main Street). City Reach 2B (upstream of the BNSF RR Bridge to Colorado Way) is currently under construction. Two upstream phases of the project, Izaak Walton Phase 1 (Boston Ave. to upstream of the BNSF RR Bridge) and Izaak Walton Phase 2 (Sunset Street to Boston Ave. including Boston Ave. bridge replacement), are currently under design. A project-phasing map is provided as Attachment 3.

In 2014, City of Longmont voters approved a Storm Drainage Fund Bond that generated approximately \$21 million to begin design and construction of the RSVP. Those bond funds have been leveraged as a local match for grants and partnerships with other agencies to move the project forward. Completion of the work to date has only been possible with the partnership of federal, state, and other local agencies. Project funding has been obtained from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Housing and Urban Development Authority (HUD), and the State of Colorado.

In March 2016, the City entered into an Agreement with the Department of the Army, U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to complete a Feasibility Study to evaluate a potential reach within RSVP where the City and USACE could partner together on a project through their Section 205 Program. The preferred alternative identified in the USACE's Section 205 Feasibility Study includes channel improvements from S. Sunset Street downstream to Boston Ave. Bridge. This preferred alternative is referred to as Izaak Walton Reach 2, which includes reconstruction of the north creek bank along Izaak Walton Pond as a levee and replacement of the Boston Ave. Bridge over St. Vrain Creek. This phase of the RSVP creates a significant benefit because it eliminates the split flow that occurred with the breach of Izaak Walton Pond, protects a significant area of lower downtown Longmont from flooding, and removes the area shown on Attachment 5 from the 100-year floodplain.

The Section 205 Program has a maximum total project cost of approximately \$15 million. The local agency is required to provide a minimum funding match of 35-percent or approximately \$5 million. The City's local match share for the USACE project would consist of approximately \$750,000 in funds for final design and construction; credit for the land and right-of-way owned by the City along the St. Vrain Creek that will be used for the project and acquisition of additional land and easements required for the project; and replacement of the Boston Avenue Bridge over St. Vrain Creek as identified in CIP Project No. TRP118, Boston Avenue Bridge over St. Vrain Creek.

The Section 205 Program is different from other federal funding sources, such as FEMA and HUD, which Longmont has obtained for previous phases of the RSVP. Under the Section 205 Program, the USACE will manage final design and construction of their portion of the project, which includes the channel improvements and a levee along the north bank of St. Vrain Creek adjacent to Izaak Walton Pond. The City will manage final design and construction of the Boston Avenue Bridge over St. Vrain Creek project. The City will be responsible for operation, maintenance, and repair of the project improvements upon completion of the project.

The total estimated cost of Izaak Walton Reach 2, including land and replacement of the Boston Avenue Bridge over St. Vrain Creek, is approximately \$14,676,842, which results in the USACE share at 51% or \$7,457,000 and the City's share at 49% or \$7,219,842.

Continuation and completion of the Resilient St. Vrain Project supports the City Council Work Plan, Section B: Vision for Longmont's Places.

- Goal B1: Have a diverse housing stock with higher densities, access to high quality public transportation, food and jobs is addressed by replacement of several roadway bridges over St. Vrain Creek that will be more resilient to future flood risk and by removal of properties needed for development of the 1st and Main Transit Station.
- Goal B2: Protect and respect our natural public amenities as part of the development process is addressed by restoring the St. Vrain Greenway trail and restoring the wetland and riparian habitat along the improved creek channel.

**COUNCIL OPTIONS:**

1. Approve the Resolution.
2. Do not approve the Resolution.

**RECOMMENDED OPTIONS:**

Option 1.

**FISCAL IMPACT & FUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

With approval of this Resolution and Agreement, a partnership will be established for the Izaak Walton Reach 2 Phase of the RSVP. The USACE will undertake design and construction of approximately \$7.5 million of St. Vrain Creek channel improvements between Boston Avenue and Sunset Street, including reconstruction of the bank along Izaak Walton Pond, which was destroyed in the 2013 Flood. These channel improvements will serve as a levee to protect downstream property.

Longmont's share of the project will consist of the following:

- \$733,842 – Required payment of 5% of total construction cost paid to USACE for design and construction. These funds come from the Storm Drainage Fund already appropriated in the 2020 Operating Budget in CIP Project No. DRN039.
- \$468,000 – Estimated cost of land and easements for construction of the project. These funds come from the Storm Drainage Fund already appropriated in the 2020 Operating Budget in CIP Project No. DRN039. Land purchased for the project will remain in the ownership of the City of Longmont.
- \$486,000 – Estimated value of existing City owned land that will be utilized for the project and the value of which is credited to the City of Longmont's share of the project cost.
- \$5,500,000 – Estimated construction cost of the Boston Avenue Bridge over St. Vrain Creek replacement project, which represents the major portion of the City's share of this project and is identified as an in-kind contribution. Design of the Boston Avenue Bridge replacement is underway with funds budgeted in the 2020 Operating Budget from the Street Fund, CIP Project No. TRP118, Boston Avenue Bridge of St. Vrain River. Construction funds will need to be approved with the 2021 Capital Improvement Program and Operating Budget. Funding for construction is primarily from the Street Fund.

**BACKGROUND AND ISSUE ANALYSIS:**

In 2009, the City completed a study that evaluated the existing floodplain mapping for the St. Vrain Creek 100-year floodplain through Longmont. The results of that study showed that the existing FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) were not accurate in several areas, and that the 100-year floodplain, particularly through lower downtown Longmont between Sunset Street and Martin Street, was much larger than the 100-year floodplain shown on the

FEMA FIRMs. The City held several public meetings to notify the public and adjacent property owners of the updated floodplain information and encouraged them to connect to the City's emergency notification system.

The 2013 Flood devastated portions of the community damaging public and private property and infrastructure. The results of this flood event showed that the 2009 study was correct, and that the existing FEMA regulatory maps were incorrect in several areas and the floodplain was indeed much larger than identified on the existing FEMA FIRMs. At the time of the flood, FEMA identified the 100-year storm flow rates on St. Vrain Creek in Longmont at approximately 10,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) at Main Street. Following the flood, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), undertook a study to review the hydrology of several northern Front Range streams, including St. Vrain Creek and Left Hand Creek in Longmont. That study resulted in the State and FEMA adopting new 100-year flow rates on St. Vrain Creek in Longmont, which are significantly higher. The new 100-year flow rate on St. Vrain Creek at Main Street is approximately 15,000 cfs, or a 50-percent increase over the previous 10,000 cfs flow rate.

The new flow rates have resulted in a new 100-year floodplain delineation for St. Vrain Creek through Longmont that covers a total of approximately 1,615 acres compared to the previous regulatory floodplain that covered approximately 1,238 acres. That results in a 30% increase with an additional 377 acres of land in the new 100-year floodplain. The impact of that larger floodplain is shown on Attachment 4. According to information from the Boulder County Assessor, the total value of the property in the new 100-year floodplain is approximately \$200 million compared the total value of the property in the previous 100-year floodplain of approximately \$138 million, or about a 45% increase.

CWCB is currently working with FEMA on the Colorado Hazard Mapping Project (CHAMP) that will result in FEMA adopting new FIRMs for St. Vrain Creek with the increased floodplain area. Preliminary FIRMs depicting the larger floodplain have been issued for public review and the City has adopted this draft floodplain mapping as best available information for regulatory purposes. It is currently anticipated that the Preliminary FIRMs will become final in late 2021.

The Resilient St. Vrain Project (RSVP) will substantially reduce the 100-year floodplain, containing the 100-year flood flows in the creek channel once fully constructed. The project will also increase the capacity of bridges crossing the creek to pass the new 100-year flood flows. During the 2013 Flood, Martin Street, Main Street, S. Pratt Parkway, Bowen Street, Sunset Street, Hover Street, and Airport Road were all closed due to flooding, bringing transportation to a standstill and significantly hindering emergency access.

The RSVP was identified as a long-term project that would need to be constructed in phases as funding became available. Initial phases of the RSVP are complete, some are currently under construction, and others are in final design with construction funded and scheduled. A project-phasing map is provided as Attachment 3.

- Sandstone Ranch Reach (not shown on phasing map) is complete with the St. Vrain Greenway Trail to Sandstone Ranch Park open to the public.
- City Reach 1 (Main Street downstream to Left Hand Creek) is complete.
- The Main Street Bridge and S. Pratt Parkway bridge replacement projects are complete.
- Replacement of the S. Sunset Street Bridge, which was destroyed in the flood, was constructed in collaboration with Boulder County, and is complete.
- City Reach 2A (Colorado Way downstream to Main Street) is complete.
- City Reach 2B, which includes the complete replacement of the BNSF railroad bridge, is under construction with substantial completion expected by end of 2020.
- Izaak Walton Reach 1 (Boston Ave. downstream to Price Road/BNSF Railroad Bridge) is in final design. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2020.
- Izaak Walton Reach 2 (S. Sunset Street downstream to Boston Ave. including Boston Ave. bridge replacement) is currently being considered by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as a project reach under their Section 205 Program.
- The Sunset Street Bridge, which was destroyed in the 2013 Flood, was replaced in a joint project with Boulder County.

The approved 2020 CIP includes design of the Boston Avenue Bridge Replacement over St. Vrain Creek, CIP No. TRP118. The 2021 - 2025 CIP that will be presented to City Council for consideration includes funding for construction of TRP118, which is critical because funding for the Boston Avenue Bridge Replacement Project provides the City's matching funds for the USACE 205 Program project (i.e. Izaak Walton Reach 2). The USACE 205 Program funds projects with a total cost of approximately \$15 million and requires a minimum local funding match of approximately 35%, or approximately \$5 million.

**Successful completion of the project up to S. Sunset Street will essentially remove all areas north of St. Vrain Creek and east of S. Sunset Street from the 100-yr floodplain.** Please see Attachment 5 for the DRAFT Floodplain Map post the USACE project.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

Att 1 – Resolution

Att 2 – Project Partnership Agreement Between the Department of the Army and the City of Longmont, Colorado for St. Vrain Creek Longmont, Colorado Section 205 Project

Att 3 – RSVP Project Phasing Map

Att 4 – Floodplain Map Exhibit 1: Effective FIRM vs. Preliminary FIRM

Att 5 – Floodplain Map Exhibit 2: DRAFT Floodplain Map post USACE Project