Cover Sheet – Non-Social Service Activity

AGENCY NAME: Town of Amherst
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AGENCY PHONE NO: 413-259-3040 CONTACT PERSON: Dave Ziomek
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CDBG FUNDING REQUEST: $225,000.00

1. Project Name: Extension of East Hadley Road Multi-use Path to Groff Park

2. Project Description: (1-2 sentences)
   The Town plans to extend the 8-10' wide multi-use path from East Hadley Road aross Route 116 and along Mill Lane to Groff Park. The project will widen an existing sidewalk and pave portions of a new pathway.

3. Project Location: (Street address): Mill Lane

4. Budget Request: $225,000.00

5. Type of Activity (check one):
   - ☐ Rehabilitation
   - ☐ Acquisition
   - ☐ Demolition/clearance
   - X Infrastructure
   - ☐ Public Facility
   - ☐ Architectural Barrier Removal
   - ☐ Other – please explain

6. National Objective:
   Total number of beneficiaries (individuals served): 2,484
   Total Low/Mod beneficiaries (individuals served): 1,601

Please submit responses to the following questions:

Project Name: Extension of East Hadley Road Multi-use Path to Groff Park

Project Location: Mill Lane

Census Block Group: 250158208011

National Objective Description
The multi-use path on Mill Lane is not located in an income-eligible US Census Block Group, however, it is the Town's determination that a majority of pedestrians and people who would use the sidewalk would be the low/mod population from East Hadley Road.

The following is the process staff used to determine this assumption:
1. Mill Lane turns into a dirt road past the park and is not used as a pedestrian connection to other parts of town. Also, there are only 16 homes on the road with a small population who may use the sidewalk.
2. The pedestrian catchment area north of Groff Park stretches ½ mile north along Route 116, after which there is open space and a natural break in the residences. North of the park along Route 116 there are 4 dead-end streets and homes along Route 116, totaling approximately 100 homes. Based on the low/mod percentage from HUD, approximately 13 homes (32.5 individuals) would be low/mod in this area.
3. South of the park the pedestrian connection stretches ¾ mile down along Route 116 to Mt Holyoke Drive and about ½ mile along Shays Street. There are no sidewalks along Shays Street and it is busy and narrow, but some pedestrians do walk along the street. In this pedestrian catchment area south of the park, there are approximately 110 homes. Based on the low/mod percentage from HUD, approximately 38 homes (95 Individuals) would be low/mod in this area.
4. Within the north and south pedestrian catchment areas for Groff Park, there are 210 homes, and a total population of 525, of which 127.5 are low/mod individuals.
5. The East Hadley Road neighborhood has a total population of 1959 and 1,474 low/mod individuals (75%).
6. Combining the pedestrian areas and the East Hadley Road neighborhood results in a total population of 2484 and a total low/mod population of 1601, for a low/mod percent of 64.5%.

Demonstrate Consistency with Sustainable Development Principles
By improving pedestrian connections to public transit and to recreation and open space opportunities at Groff Park, the Extension of the Multi-use path meets three sustainable development principles: 1) concentrate development and mix uses, 2) advance equity, and 7) provide transportation choice.

Demonstrate Consistency with Target Area requirements
The multi-use path is within the East Hadley Road target area.

A. Demonstrate Consistency with Community Priorities

The project is consistent with community priorities articulated in the 2018 Community Development Strategy, in particular, priority project #3, improving public infrastructure in the village centers and target areas. A multi-use path along Mill Lane that connects with East Hadley Road will create a barrier free sidewalk that connects residents with public transportation and Groff Park, a free public park that offers various amenities and programs. The multi-use path encourages alternate modes of transportation, including cycling, walking and public transit, one of the main goals in the Town's 2015 Transportation Plan. Connecting residents and families to Groff Park helps achieve a larger effort of making Amherst more sustainable in terms of pedestrian connectivity, encouraging alternative modes of transportation, and allocating resources to meet a high community need and demand.

B. Agency Information

The Town offers high level government services, quality education, support for open space and agriculture, promotion of economic development, and respect for its history. Town government has been in existence for decades, with numerous departments and citizen boards and committees all working toward common goals that benefit its citizens and the community. Currently, Amherst has professional staff in all of its departments, in particular its Accounting, Conservation, Planning, Facilities and Public Works Departments who commonly work with consultants and contractors to manage and develop such projects as feasibility studies and assessments, development of engineering specifications, and construction projects ranging from public infrastructure to affordable housing. Town staff is competent with procurement regulations, balancing budgets, and efficiently managing contracts so that deliverables are received on time. The Department of Public Works and Planning Department Staff will work closely with the contractors to oversee the project. This is the same staff who:

- Managed the $150,000 accessibility upgrades to Boltwood Walk (installation of new concrete walkway with improved drainage)
- Supervised the installation of a new sidewalk along South East Street connecting Colonial Village Apartments to the village Center.
- Managed the reconstruction of Shumway Street, including new drainage and utilities, road and sidewalk paving, and driveway entrance improvements.
- Managed the repaving of Main Street and it sidewalks.

C. Project Budget Information

The project budget was prepared by town staff from the Department of Public Works and uses unit costs published by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division and quantities estimated by the Engineer. The budget represents an estimate to install an 8-10' wide multi-use path along Mill Lane that runs from Route 116 into Groff Park, a length of approximately 1,200 linear feet.

There are no funds requested for operations or maintenance, as the Town would maintain the path as part of its annual schedule.

D. Project Description

The goal is to have a continuous multi-use path on East Hadley Road and along Mill Lane that brings residents to Groff Park and public transit.

The project is an extension of the multi-use path along East Hadley Road and involves the installation of an 8-10' wide multi-use path along Mill Lane and down the 450 access drive at Groff Park. The path would provide an accessible, safe route that connects residents with bus stops and Groff Park. The current sidewalk is extremely narrow in places and not accessible, and includes multiple road crossings that would be reduced.

There are also missing sections of sidewalk on the north side of Mill Lane so that residents either cross the street or walk in the road. The multi-use path on Mill Lane would create continuous sidewalk on the north side of the street to provide a safe route to the park. Where the multi-use path intersects with Route 116, there will be new pedestrian signals and curb cuts to connect with the multi-use path on East Hadley Road.

Widening of the sidewalk and paving of new sidewalk also requires new drainage infrastructure and the removal and planting of street trees.

Answers for Parts E—H must not exceed four (4) pages

E. Project Need

The project is needed to safely bring nearly 2,000 low- and moderate-income residents from East Hadley Road and along Mill Lane to Groff Park. Residents often walk in the road and do not use the sidewalk or crosswalks, creating dangerous, unsafe conditions. The Town is in the process of constructing the multi-use path on East Hadley Road and is planning to install a new playground, splash pad and amenities at Groff Park in spring 2019. Residents of this area use Groff Park very frequently as it offers open space, playing fields, playgrounds, and access to the Fort River. In 2015, the Amherst Health Department conducted a survey of East Hadley Road residents and found that many use public transportation and Groff Park, and that more would take advantage of these resources if they were easier to access. Extending the multi-use path to Groff Park would help meet this need.

F. Community Involvement and Support

Following up on the work of the Health Department that identified Groff Park as a widely used amenity and the high use of public transportation by East Hadley Road residents, the Town has planned three improvement projects for this area: modernize Groff Park, the new multi-use path along East Hadley Road, now an extension of the path to Mill Lane for the final connection to the park. Plans to improve Groff Park included a community-wide survey with targeted outreach to East Hadley Road. Respondents indicated a desire to improve the Park as well as the need to make a much stronger pedestrian connection to it to make it easier and safer to access. The Town's goal is to complete these improvements in 2019/2020.

G. Project Feasibility

Currently the project is in concept design and cost estimating. Town staff believes the project is feasible because of the experience paving Phase I of the multi-use path on East Hadley Road and general experience of designing and implementing public infrastructure projects. The construction of the path is not complicated and will adhere to current standards. At this time, it

appears that the multi-use path along Mill Lane would remain within the road right of way, so no easements would be necessary. In addition to the path, work also includes improvements to the surface drainage infrastructure and upgrades to 2 crosswalks.

The project area is located within 200 ft. of the Fort River, and is subject to review by the Amherst Conservation Commission. This local permitting does not change the overall design and will help address storm water management. The project area is also designated habitat by the State's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) and will require additional review by the State. NHESP review will be conducted in order to help the project mitigate potential impacts to wildlife.

The concept design will be refined in early 2019 to the preliminary design phase. At this point the project will begin local permitting and review. The goal would be to finalize design by January 2020 for a winter bid. The project would follow Massachusetts procurement regulations for horizontal construction and construction would begin in spring 2020. Town staff would provide procurement and construction oversight while the work would be completed by outside contractors.

H. Project Impact

The impacts will be a safer, completely accessible path for residents that provides a direct route to Groff Park. The multi-use path will reduce the number of road crossings, and will make the remaining the crosswalks safer with new signals and signs. As an extension of the multi-use path on East Hadley Road, it will be part of a mile-long multi-use path that can also be used for recreation and daily activity, activating a segment of the street that was previously inaccessible and not used by residents.

Mill Lane Multi-use Path

Property Map
- Property Lines
- Easements
- Adjacent Towns Parcels

Basemap
- Trails

Horizontal Datum: MA Stateplane Coordinate System, Zone 4151, NAD83, Feet; Vertical Datum: NAVD88, FT
Planimetric & topographic basemap compiled at 1"=40' scale from April, 2009 Aerial Photography. Parcels compiled to match the basemap; revisions are ongoing.

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It may not be adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or property conveyance purposes. Utility structures & underground utility locations are approximate & require field verification.

The Town of Amherst makes no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of these data, & does not assume any liability associated with the use or misuse of these data.

1" = 300 ft

amherstma.gov/maps December 28, 2018

Multi-use Path

Property Map
- Property Lines
- -- Easements
- ☐ Adjacent Towns Parcels

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