



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** May 21, 2018

SUBJECT: Grant Opportunity for Main Street Improvements

PRESENTER: Clayton Comstock, Planning Manager

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

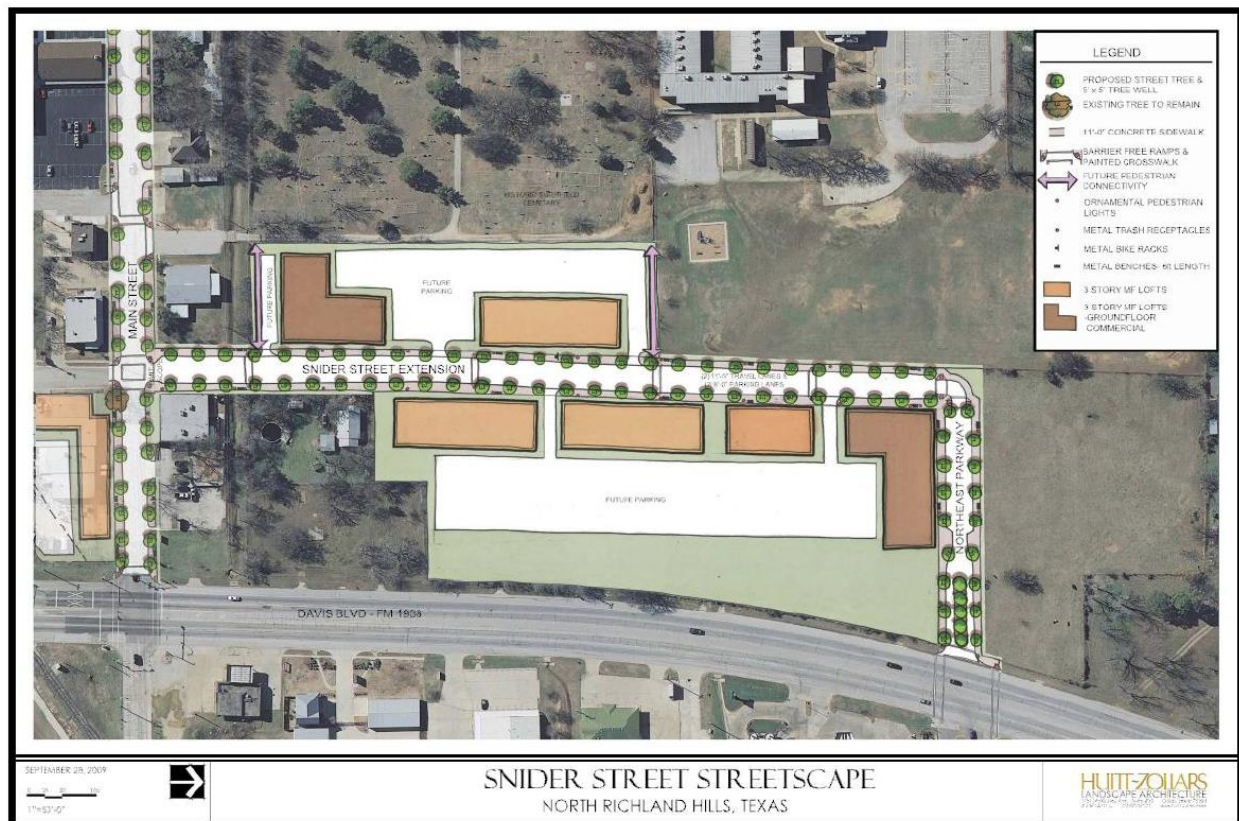
The purpose of this Work Session item is to update City Council on the status of the 2009 Sustainable Development Grant awarded by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and new opportunities for grant funding for "Complete Streets" projects, including Main Street. City Council will be asked to confirm staff's direction concerning these opportunities.

SUMMARY

Following the adoption of the Smithfield Transit Oriented Development District in 2009, the City of North Richland Hills applied for and was awarded a "Sustainable Development Grant" by the North Central Texas Council of Governments for the construction of a new street connection from Main Street north and doglegging into Davis Boulevard at Northeast Parkway. This connection would occur through property acquired by the City around that same time. The \$2.2 million grant would have had a \$500,000+ city contribution for a total project of \$2.8 million. In addition to the new street, the project would include sidewalks, street trees, on-street parking, benches, bike racks, street lights, and a traffic signal at Davis Boulevard and Northeast Parkway.

A major condition of the grant, however, was that a mix of uses must be developed in conjunction with the street project. Since development meeting the criteria of the grant has not occurred or begun, the City is in the position to forego the \$2.2 in NCTCOG grant funding for Snider Street.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments is now accepting applications for "Complete Streets" projects on a rolling basis. Staff sees this as an opportunity to refocus the priorities for the Smithfield area to catalyze a vibrant and successful Main Street, as it is closer and more accessible to the Smithfield TEXRail Station platform. TEXRail commuter rail service is targeted to begin January 2019.



2009 Sustainable Development Grant application exhibit demonstrating the planned improvements of Snider Street between Main Street & Davis Boulevard

COMPLETE STREETS

“Complete Streets” projects that may qualify for new project grant funding by the Council of Governments includes improvements that add all or part of the following components to a public street:

- On-street parking
- Sidewalks
- Street trees
- Street furniture such as benches, bike racks, trash receptacles,
- Street lights
- Bike or bus lanes
- Crosswalk signage and striping
- Green infrastructure such as rain catchment gardens, permeable paving/pavers, etc.

These types of grants will not typically cover the costs of repaving or resurfacing existing roadways. They are instead meant to add and enhance alternative transportation options to the public street.

“COMPLETE STREET” GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR MAIN STREET

Staff will be seeking City Council’s direction and support to proceed with a grant application that would enhance Main Street, Center Street, and Snider Street in the historic Smithfield area between Smithfield Road and Davis Boulevard with many of the components of a Complete Street listed above. The attached exhibit (also shown below) demonstrates the overall project and estimated project cost of \$1.5 million, for which staff would seek grant funding to support the project. That overall cost does include pavement work that may not be covered by a complete streets grant.

