

Council Agenda Item 25-0482R



MEETING DATE: June 16, 2025

SUBJECT/TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH ZEITGEIST CENTER FOR ARTS AND COMMUNITY FOR JOINT CONSTRUCTION OF A PEDESTRIAN REFUGE ISLAND AND MEDIAN ALONG 6TH AVENUE EAST.

SUBMITTED BY: Alex Popp, Public Works and Utilities, Engineering Division

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: 25-0426R Awarded the construction contract for the 6th Avenue East Reconditioning Project to Northland Constructors of Duluth, a division of Mathy Construction Co. in the amount of \$2,984,400.00 at the May 27, 2025, Council meeting.

BACKGROUND: This resolution will authorize City Officials to enter into an agreement with the Zeitgeist Center for the Arts and Community for the joint construction of a pedestrian refuge island and median along 6th Avenue East between East 5th Street and East 9th Street with a gap for turns onto East 7th Street. Zeitgeist obtained a \$78,300 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to make pedestrian improvements to the 6th Avenue East right-of-way and worked with the City to incorporate those improvements into the City's 6th Avenue East Reconditioning Project where other street improvements will also be constructed. The construction of a median was part of the project's scope, but the median was expanded to increase pedestrian safety following public feedback utilizing the grant to pay for a portion of the required work.

Following the project, the roadway will be reconfigured to have three lanes (two through lanes and a center turn lane) from 2nd Street to 9th Street with a center median to restrict turns at 6th Street and 8th Street. Based on the engineering studies completed for the project, these changes are expected to significantly improve roadway safety for drivers and pedestrians while maintaining traffic capacity through the corridor. Two public meetings were held to discuss the project with the neighborhood, one in October of 2023 and a second in January of 2025.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: Zeitgeist will reimburse the City up to \$78,300 to Permanent Improvement Fund 440, City Project 2195 for the value of the work under this agreement.

OPTIONS: Approve or delay improvements

NECESSARY ACTION: Approve agreement

ATTACHMENTS: Agreement, Resolution Map