

April 28, 2015

Vincent Greener, P.E., P.M.P., Civil Engineer
U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
Denver Regional Office
410 17th Street, Suite 250
Denver, Colorado 80202-4454

RE: EDA Financial Assistance Award No. 05-79-05290
City of Dubuque Bee Branch Disaster Resiliency Project

Subject: Extension Request for Construction Completion Date and Award End Date

Dear Mr. Greener,

The purpose of this letter is to request EDA approval to extend the Construction Completion Date and Award End Date of the Bee Branch Disaster Resiliency Project. The current Construction Completion Date is February 8, 2017; we request to extend this date to July 1, 2017. The current Award End Date is May 8, 2017; we request to extend this date to September 1, 2017.

The City has held two pre-bid construction conferences; one on the EDA contract and one for a related bridge/structures contract that is within the same EDA project limits. The feedback received from a majority of the contractors was that the current construction completion date does not provide enough time to complete the project without increasing the cost of both contracts by a significant amount. Based on contractor feedback, the City is estimating a possible increase of one to two million dollars if we maintain the current construction schedule.

Under the new proposed schedule that the City of Dubuque is requesting, the Bee Branch Creek will require contractors to have the floodway channel functional by December 2016 to mitigate the potential for any flooding in the spring 2017. However there will be some additional street paving and landscape type work that remains to be completed during the spring of 2017 after winter weather conditions have passed.

The timing of this project has been affected by many factors throughout the past year, including negotiations with the Canadian Pacific Railway. The City of Dubuque has worked diligently to move forward with the final design and the construction start date in order to improve our resiliency to flooding. In November of 2014 it was determined that the City should construct the channel from Garfield Avenue to 24th Street (EDA project

area) prior to completing the storm sewer culverts beneath the Canadian Pacific Railway so that citizens can realize the benefits of flood resiliency as soon as possible.

Our request for an extension is based on several factors. The City of Dubuque has continued to work closely with the public through several community meetings and presentations to ensure the impact to businesses and residential neighborhoods during construction are as minimal as possible. Due to the input from the public, the City has implemented restrictions on the amount of long-term roadway closures happening at any one point in time in order to limit disruption to businesses and residents in the construction area. Four long term roadway closures are necessary for the City's parallel bridge/structures contract to construct two bridges and two major box culvert systems across the channel before the roadways can be put back into service.

When the City hosted the two pre-bid construction conferences, contractor's provided significant feedback regarding the City's proposed schedule included in the bid documents. In order to meet the current EDA approved Construction Completion Date of February 8, 2017 the project schedule calls for contractors to pour concrete through both winter seasons between the start and end date for the project. While doing some cold weather concrete work is feasible, the contractors provided feedback that having to heat concrete to pour roadways and bridges in heart of winter would be cost prohibitive if not somewhat impossible.

Finally, when the City was awarded the EDA grant the Bee Branch Disaster Resiliency Project was estimated as a \$10,226,150 project. Due to further refinement of the design to meet the stated project objectives, construction material cost increases, and increased costs to ensure the built infrastructure remains durable and resilient during flood events, the engineers estimate is now \$18,518,300 for the same awarded scope of work. The City of Dubuque has evaluated and implemented value engineering changes to reduce cost increase as much as possible, however the additional costs have directly affected the budgeted local match the City of Dubuque may need to provide. Any further increase to these costs due to the inability to change the scheduled construction completion date will put undue strain on the project budget and the citizens of Dubuque.

We respectfully request EDA approval to release an addendum to the contract documents that extends the Construction Completion Date by five months to July 1, 2017. We would also like to request that the Award End Date be extended by four months to September 1, 2017. We would need to release this addendum as soon as possible as the Project's bid letting is on May 7, 2015.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Van Milligen, City Manager
Authorized Representative