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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

CITY OF NEW LONDON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 1st, 2020

City of New London to be awarded a STP-Urban Grant for reconstruction of N Water Street

The City of New London has been notified that the city is a recipient of a Wisconsin Surface Transportation Program (STP) – Urban grant for the 2020-2025 program cycle. The purpose of the program is to improve transportation on Wisconsin's federal-aid-eligible roads and streets in urbanized areas. The 2020-2025 STP-Urban program has a total of \$199,399,252 available and is being distributed into 4 categories based on population size:

- 200k+ population, \$147,783,297
- 50k-200k population, \$33,856,782
- 20k-50k population, \$6,470,696
- 5k-20k population, \$11,288,477

Funding is only available for roads that are functionally classified as a "major collector" or higher; lower classified streets including typical residential streets are not eligible for this grant program. The City, along with grant writing support from McMahon Associates, applied for financial assistance to help with the planned reconstruction of N Water Street from Shawano Avenue to Pearl Street. The current estimate for a complete road reconstruction for this defined area is anticipated to be around \$3.6 million and will include improvements to the roadway, sidewalk, storm sewer drainage, traffic signals, street lighting and signage. Improvements to the sanitary and water utility systems are not an eligible cost in the grant, but will also be replaced and financed through water and sewer utility user fee funds. The city is anticipating a grant amount of over \$2.9 million to assist with the project. Mayor Henke says, "*This grant is great news for the City of New London as it will allow us to reconstruct North Water Street and help revitalize our downtown area. Street reconstruction is a priority, but an expensive endeavor. City staff and the common council have been listening to the concerns of our citizens and have been searching out ways to improve our transportation infrastructure without putting the entire burden on our local taxpayers. The award of this grant is a great step towards that goal.*"

Construction under the STP-Urban program falls under WisDOT, so the State approves the year in which construction will fall under the 2020-2025 program cycle. The city has requested that construction occur in 2023, however WisDOT has not confirmed if the 2023 request will be approved or moved to another year within the program cycle.

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