

With funding in place, wind sculpture will soon be spinning at base of new bridge

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By BERNARD HARRIS
Staff Writer



This rendering shows the 42 kinetic wind sculptures by artist Lyman Whitaker that will be installed this fall near the Lancaster Amtrak station.

Seven months ago, a committee chose artist Lyman Whitaker's spinning copper wind sculptures for sites at the base of the new Thaddeus Stevens Bridge.

That selection has since been affirmed by philanthropic foundations and individual donors to the tune of \$200,000.

With the public art project fully funded, engineers must now complete site plan details, sign a maintenance agreement with the state Transportation Department, and Utah-based Whitaker must fabricate the 42 individual sculptures.

If all goes well, the sculptures may be installed in late October or early November, Tracy Beyl, Lancaster city's public art manager, said Wednesday.

The new bridge opened to traffic Wednesday morning. The entire \$26.26 million project is slated for completion in late October after the old Lititz Pike bridge is removed.

The sculptures are planned for the southwest corner of the bridge, on land near the Lancaster Amtrak station. The pole-mounted sculptures would be placed on each side of McGovern Avenue near the station.

Each of the kinetic wind sculptures will have different sized blades. The blades will be weighted differently, so the sculptures will spin at different speeds, Whitaker explained to committee members at a presentation in November.

"They almost never stop," Whitaker said of the sculptures, which he characterized as "playful."

The sculptures will range in height from 14 to 34 feet.

The \$200,000 art project is the largest the city has undertaken.

Beyl said she recently learned the final, large block of funding was coming from the Highmark Foundation. That \$50,000 commitment is one of a dozen pledges toward the artwork.

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Those range from another \$50,000 commitment from the S. Dale High Foundation to \$100 from the Heritage & Horizons class of the Church of the Apostles.

Because part of the bridge lies in Manheim Township, city officials last week asked the township to contribute \$15,000. A meeting is also scheduled next week with another potential donor, Beyl said.

"If those don't come through, the city does have the money," said Beyl.

The city now has \$26,400 in capital bond funds committed for the sculpture. That amount would be reduced with additional donations, she said.

source: LancasterOnline.com