



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: March 20, 2012

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Referral: Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair Ways & Means Committee

Subject: **Authorization to Contribute to Study on Feasibility of Creating a Downtown Minneapolis Public Realm Conservancy**

Recommendation:

Adopt resolution identifying the City of Minneapolis as a partner with the Minneapolis Downtown Council and to provide \$5,000 toward a study to determine the feasibility of creating a downtown Minneapolis Greening and Public Realm Non-Profit Organization, an initiative in the 2025 Plan.

Previous Directives:

None

Prepared by: Brette Hjelle, Director, Administration Division

Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Brette, Hjelle, Director, Administration Division

Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Approval	NA	Date
Civil Rights Affirmative Action Plan	Approval	NA	Date
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Approval	NA	Date

Financial Impact

Action is within current department budget

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Not Applicable
City Goals: Not Applicable
Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable
Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

The Downtown Council released its Downtown Minneapolis 2025 Plan in December 2011. A key component to the plan is greening the public realm. To meet this goal, the 2025 Plan suggests a

non-profit entity could partner with the public and private sectors to coordinate and enhance funding, planning, programming, and management of existing and new public real amenities. Over 65 similar entities have been formed across the US, with great success in ensuring adequate private investment in greening and public realm initiatives.

A study is currently being done to explore the feasibility of this concept. The Downtown Improvement District (DID) is acting as the fiscal agent and coordinator for the feasibility study. The cost of the study is \$55,000. City partnership in the effort has been requested through a presence on the Community Advisory Panel (Jeremy Hanson-Willis) and a \$5,000 contribution to the cost of the study. The other funders are the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (\$25,000) and The Pohlad Foundation (\$25,000).

Public Works is recommending the city be an official partner and contribute \$5,000 to the study. The city has a long history of success with public/private partnerships for the betterment of the public realm. Such an effort is also consistent with the Public Works Business Plan under the objective of supporting the creation of Special Service Districts in the City.

The source of the funding is 00100 6070600 (Transportation Maintenance and Street Administration).

Resolution

Resolution to Identify the City of Minneapolis as a Partner with the Minneapolis Downtown Council's Greening Non-Profit Organization Feasibility Study, and provide \$5,000 to the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District (fiscal agent for the study) toward the Project Cost.

Whereas, In order to make downtown Minneapolis a more attractive and welcoming environment for its growing residential population and workforce, business and community leaders are defining various initiatives to greatly enhance downtown's "green infrastructure";

Whereas, It is believed that downtown Minneapolis would benefit from one or more non-profit conservancies and/or private/public partnerships to aggregate public, private and non-profit funding and coordinate leadership towards the design, development, maintenance and programming of new and existing public realm amenities;

Whereas, The Downtown Improvement District, acting as a fiscal agent and coordinator, has hired a consultant to conduct a study to determine the feasibility and approach for creating a Downtown Minneapolis Public Realm Conservancy; and

Whereas, Funding is being sought from the potential future partners of the conservancy, including public, private and non-profit organizations to conduct this feasibility study:

RESOLVED, That the City of Minneapolis serves as a partner with the Minneapolis Downtown Council's Greening Non-Profit Organization Feasibility Study, and provide \$5,000 to the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District (fiscal agent for the study) toward the Project Cost. ; and

RESOLVED, That that proper city officers are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.