



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

**Date:** April 3, 1012

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

**Referral:** Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair Ways & Means Committee

**Subject:** **Cooperative Funding Agreement with Hennepin County for Sabo Bridge Engineering Services**

**Recommendation:**

The proper City officers are authorized to execute a cooperative funding agreement with Hennepin County to pay up to \$150,000 from the general fund (00100-6070200-607P0912) for engineering services to be provided by Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates for the Sabo Bridge.

**Previous Directives:**

None

**Prepared by:** Heidi Hamilton, Deputy Director of Public Works 673-3316

**Approved by:**

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

**Presenters:** Heidi Hamilton, Deputy Director of Public Works

**Reviews** None

**Financial Impact:**

No appropriation request is being made at this time. See background section for funding details.

**Community Impact**

Neighborhood Notification: NA  
City Goals: Livable Communities, Healthy Lives  
Comprehensive Plan: NA  
Zoning Code: NA

**Background/Supporting Information**

On February 19, 2012, one of nine pairs of suspension cables that support the deck of the Sabo Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge broke and fell to the ground. A second pair of cables was found to be severely compromised, which resulted in the closure of both Trunk Highway 55 and Hiawatha Light Rail Transit service. The highway and light rail has since been reopened.

City and Hennepin County staff have worked cooperatively to stabilize the bridge and continue to work together to determine the cause of the failure and a repair that will return the bridge to

service as quickly as possible. In consultation with city staff, Hennepin County promptly hired the engineering firm Wiss, Janney Elstner Associates, inc. (WJE) to provide bridge inspection services to determine if there were other structural issues with the bridge, engineering guidance for bridge stabilization, and forensic engineering services to determine the cause of the bridge failure. WJE arrived on site on Wednesday, Feb. 22 to begin field work.

The bridge construction, which was managed by Hennepin County and paid for with federal and county funds, opened for use in 2007. After bridge construction was complete, the city assumed maintenance responsibility for the bridge.

City and Hennepin County staffs agree that it is in the best interest of the public to split the cost of the work that will be completed by WJE. Therefore, Public Works recommends that the proper city officers be authorized to execute a cooperative funding agreement with Hennepin County for a total of \$150,000 to fund 50% of the cost of the work that will be completed by WJE on the Sabo Bridge. The project scope in this agreement also includes design of the bridge repair, construction support for bridge repair, and litigation support.

The cost of this work will exceed the Public Work's available bridge maintenance budget. However, it is too early to tell if Public Works can accommodate the expense within its total general fund appropriation. If not, contingency funds will be requested. Public Works is working with the City Attorney's Office to determine what options are available for recovering the cost of this work as well as the cost of the response to the bridge failure.

Cc: Don Elwood, Public Works  
Mike Kennedy, Public Works  
Jack Yuzna, Public Works  
Meseret Wolana, Public Works