



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

Date: August 7, 2012
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Subject: **Limited Use Permit with MnDOT for Bluff Street Trail Project**

Recommendation:

Authorize the proper City officers to enter into a Limited Use Permit with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation to operate and maintain the portion of the Bluff Street Trail within the right-of-way of the I-35W Bridge over the Mississippi River.

Previous Directives:

- December 14, 2011: Council action to approve Five Year Capital Program.
- February 15, 2008: Council action to authorize a cost participation agreement with MnDOT for the I-35W Bridge Reconstruction Project to allow for an access tunnel under the freeway.

Prepared by: Meseret Wolana, P.E. Project Engineer, 673-3527
Don Elwood, P.E., Director, Transportation Planning & Engineering, 673-3622

Approved by:

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

Presenters: Jack Yuzna, P.E., Principal Project Engineer, 673-2425
Department of Public Works, Transportation Planning and Engineering Division

Reviews

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

Financial Impact

No financial impact at this time.

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Not Applicable

City Goals: A Safe Place To Call Home: the City's infrastructure will be well-Maintained; people will feel safe in the city.

Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable
Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

In 1995, the City of Minneapolis developed concepts for a trail connection at Bluff Street that would run under the former I-35W Mississippi River Bridge along the south bank of the River. This proposed trail segment was intended to connect the bicycle lanes on 2nd Street North with the University of Minnesota trail by allowing users to travel under the I-35W Mississippi River Bridge and across the River at the Northern Pacific Railway Bridge 9.

To make this connection, the City further considered purchasing right-of-way on both the east and west sides of I-35W. At that time, the City concluded that the funding to purchase additional private property and build this trail connection could be better used for other transportation needs.

In 2007, as part of the transportation planning efforts to build the new I-35W Saint Anthony Falls Bridge, the City utilized the municipal consent process to pursue plans for a pedestrian/bicycle trail extension under the new I-35W bridge. At that time the City intended to follow up and pursue additional Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot and / or SAFETEA-LU funding to implement the trail connection from Bridge 9 on the east end, to 13th Avenue South on the west end.

In 2008, during the reconstruction of I-35W Bridge, the City and Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) discussed and entered into an agreement that funded a tunnel under the freeway, as well as considered and allowed for the future trail connections to this tunnel. Thereafter, Public Works worked with MnDOT and the I-35W Bridge contractor to implement the pedestrian/bicycle tunnel. This tunnel has been closed, pending a future Bluff Street Trail connection.

Proposed Bluff Street Trail

Public Works now intends to move forward and construct the Bluff Street Trail segment in 2013. A portion of the proposed trail falls within MnDOT's I-35W Bridge right-of-way, and thus requires a Limited Use Permit.

Public Works therefore seeks to enter into a Limited Use Permit with MnDOT to operate and maintain the portion of the Bluff Street Trail within the right-of-way of the I-35W Bridge over the Mississippi River.

Local funds in the amount of \$800,000 are appropriated to this project. Hennepin County has committed \$300,000, and additional funding is being sought, but has not yet been secured.

Attachment: Map

CC: Council Member Cam Gordon, Ward 2
Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7

RESOLUTION
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS LIMITED USE PERMIT WITH THE STATE OF
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A BIKE
AND PEDESTRIAN TRAIL UNDER THE I-35W MISSISSIPPI RIVER
BRIDGE

WHEREAS, the City of Minneapolis is a political subdivision, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, the City of Minneapolis intends to construct the Bluff Street bicycle and pedestrian trail under I-35W through the existing box culvert tunnel constructed for this purpose, and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation requires a Limited Use Permit for the construction and utilization along a portion of the Bluff Street Trail project that falls within Minnesota Department of Transportation I-35W Bridge right-of-way .

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Minneapolis will enter into a Limited Use Permit with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation to operate and maintain the portion of the Bluff Street Trail within the right-of-way of the I-35W Mississippi River Bridge. The City of Minneapolis shall construct, operate, and maintain said trail in accordance with the Limited Use Permit to be granted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council and the Mayor are authorized to execute said Limited Use Permit and any amendments to the Permit.