



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

**Date:** August 21, 2012

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

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

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

### Recommendation:

Authorize the proper City officers to amend the cooperative funding agreement with Hennepin County for expenses related to the repair of the Martin Olav Sabo Bridge through July 1, 2014, including an increase in the amount to pay from the general fund (00100-6070200-607P0912) to \$225,000, and to allow the City to receive up to \$25,000 of reimbursement for costs incurred in the interim reopening of the bridge.

### Previous Directives:

- April 3, 2012: Authorization to execute a cooperative funding agreement with Hennepin County to pay up to \$150,000 from the general fund for engineering services to be provided by Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates.

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

### Approved by:

---

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: Not Applicable  
City Goals: Livable Communities, Healthy Lives  
Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable  
Zoning Code: Not Applicable

### Background/Supporting Information

On February 19, 2012, a plate connecting 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 plate connecting 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. City and

Hennepin County staff worked cooperatively to stabilize the bridge, determine the cause of the failure, and to return the bridge to service. The highway and light rail reopened within days, and the Sabo Bridge was reopened to bicycle and pedestrian traffic in June.

On April 3, 2012, an agreement with Hennepin County was approved to allow for the cost sharing of the work by Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc, (WJE), including the stabilization and assessment of the Martin Sabo Bridge, determination of the cause of the cable connector plate failure and recommendations for permanent repairs.

The county and the city recognized that equally sharing the cost of the work associated with the WJE contract was in the best interest of the parties and the public.

The department is now in the process of engaging WJE to provide retrofit design services and construction management services for the repair to the Martin Sabo Bridge. The WJE contract will be increased by \$150,000, bringing the total not to exceed amount for the three phases of work covered by the WJE contract to \$450,000. The County and City will each contribute \$225,000 toward the total cost. County and City staff are also exploring contracting options for repairing the bridge and funding the repair, since it is unlikely that settlement discussions will be concluded prior to moving ahead with repair.

In addition, the County has agreed to reimburse the City for 50% of the costs related to the interim reopening of the bridge, up to a not to exceed amount of \$25,000.

Therefore, Public Works recommends that the proper City officers be authorized to amend the cooperative funding agreement with Hennepin County for expenses related to the repair of the Bridge through July 1, 2014, including an increase to the estimated receivable amount to \$225,000, and for the City to receive up to \$25,000 of reimbursement for costs incurred in the interim reopening of the bridge.

The cost of this work will exceed the Public Work's available bridge maintenance budget. However, it remains 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