



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

Date: May 9, 2002  
To: Transportation and Public Works Committee  
Referral to: Ways and Means Committee

**Subject:** Landscape enhancements to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South Project

**Recommendation:** Amending the 2002 Capital Improvement Appropriation Resolution 2001R-507 as follows:

a) Reconsideration of landscaping in conjunction with the Downtown 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South Paving Project requiring the re-appropriation of \$300,000 in MSA dollars from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South Neighborhood Roadway Project (T21c) to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South Downtown Roadway Project (T21a), both a part of Resolution 2001R-507 for 4100-937-9372.

b) Also recommended is the elimination of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South Avenue of the Arts Neighborhood Roadway and Streetscape Projects (T21b and T21c) and the associated funding from Resolution 2001R-507.

**Previous Directives:**

Footnote dd to the Capital Budget Resolution 2001R-507 on December 19, 2001, removing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South Downtown Streetscape (1<sup>st</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Streets) program for 2003 and the related assessment funding from the 2002-2006 Five Year CIP.

Motion by Council Member Zimmerman on April 25, 2002 to postpone re-paving of 3rd Avenue South, south of I-94 and transfer the funds for this project to the Downtown section of 3rd Avenue South to provide planters and irrigation infrastructure in the center medians.

Prepared or Submitted by: Kelly Moriarity, Project Engineer, 673-3617

Approved: David J. Sonnenberg, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

By: Paul W. Ogren 

Presenters in Committee: Kelly Moriarity, Project Engineer

**Financial Impact** (Check those that apply)

No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.  
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

Action requires use of contingency or reserves

Other financial impact (Explain): Possible increase to future operating budget.

Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

**Community Impact** (use any categories that apply)

**Neighborhood Notification** – The adjacent property owners and BOMA were notified of the proposed enhancements at a meeting with staff and the council member.

**Comprehensive Plan** – Addresses 3.2, 7.4,

**Background/Supporting Information**

Council Member Goodman has been working with the Downtown business community to provide landscaping enhancements to the medians on the Downtown 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South Paving Project. Several Downtown corporate partners have shown interest in providing and maintaining landscaping enhancements to the medians if the medians are prepared for planting with the current paving project.

Therefore, we are bringing forth plans to include irrigation, raised planting walls and conduit for future lighting to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave S project. The estimated cost to provide irrigation, raised planters and conduit for the 5 medians in the current Downtown 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South construction plans is \$300,000.

The proposed funding source for these enhancements would be Municipal State Aid (MSA) landscaping funds. Currently MSA allows 5% of our yearly construction allotment to be used for landscaping. Current 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South plans include 3% of construction costs for landscaping. This leaves 2% of the allotment (\$108,000) available for additional landscaping. The additional money (\$192,000) required for the proposed median planters and irrigation would have to come from future MSA allotments, thus reducing the amount of landscaping dollars available for future projects.

In order to provide the additional MSA funds for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South Project, Council Member Zimmerman has recommended deleting the proposed 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave South Avenue of the Arts project from 17<sup>th</sup> St to 26<sup>th</sup> St and re-appropriating the MSA dollars required to provide irrigation, planters and conduit in the medians on the Downtown 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave S Project. The only funding source available from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South Neighborhood project are MSA dollars because the current Capital Improvement budget for this project does not include any Net Debt Bond funding and the remaining funding source was special assessments.

This cost estimate is based on the business community's ability to provide the landscaping and required future maintenance in the medians. A letter of agreement and/or encroachment permit would be sought with the participating businesses to provide landscaping and maintenance for a specified period of time. The details of such agreements are still to be determined. The responsibility for maintenance of these enhancements could revert back to the city at some time in the future.

cc: Council Member Lisa Goodman – Ward 7  
Council Member Dean Zimmerman – Ward 6

dd) The 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave S, Avenue of the Arts Downtown Streetscape (1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Streets) program for 2003 and the related \$6,000,000 of assessment funding is hereby removed from the 2002-2006 Five Year Capital Improvements Program.

ee) The resolution reflects a movement of \$335,000 of net debt bonds for the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE (T02 Miscellaneous Segments Program) and \$87,000 of net debt bonds designated for the Hiawatha/Minnehaha Railroad Project to the Central Avenue NE Project (T24) with the use of the \$87,000 to be contingent upon satisfactory completion of the Hiawatha/Minnehaha Railroad Project.

ff) Amend the Public Works Department budget to include two additional decision packages: 1) Increase contractual services by \$584,000 in the Equipment Services Division, which reflects the current level of expenditure. In addition, the base revenue can be adjusted to reflect the current level of revenues available to support this expenditure (page 923); and 2) Add 4.0 FTE Driver positions and 6.0 FTE Operator positions to the Equipment Services Division. The increase is needed to support additional construction activities for major projects, such as Near North and light rail transit (LRT), which is currently being completed with contracted labor and equipment. The increase in salary/benefit costs will be offset by a reduction in contracted labor costs. There will be no change in revenue as shown in the decision package, page 924.

gg) The Public Works Department is directed to annually evaluate the capital program workload and adjust staffing levels accordingly with the understanding that the hiring goals for the Near North project will be met with the hiring of these additional positions.

hh) Reserve the unallocated balance of approximately \$1,200,000 in the Public Safety Initiative Projects for construction of a new Fire Station #14 and, upon receipt of the report from the Public Works Department on 800 megahertz costs (due April 1), reserve any savings for possible allocation to Fire Station #14 in 2003.

Adopted. Yeas, 13; Nays none.

Passed December 13, 2001. J. Cherryhomes, President of Council.

Approved. December 19, 2001. S. Sayles Belton, Mayor.

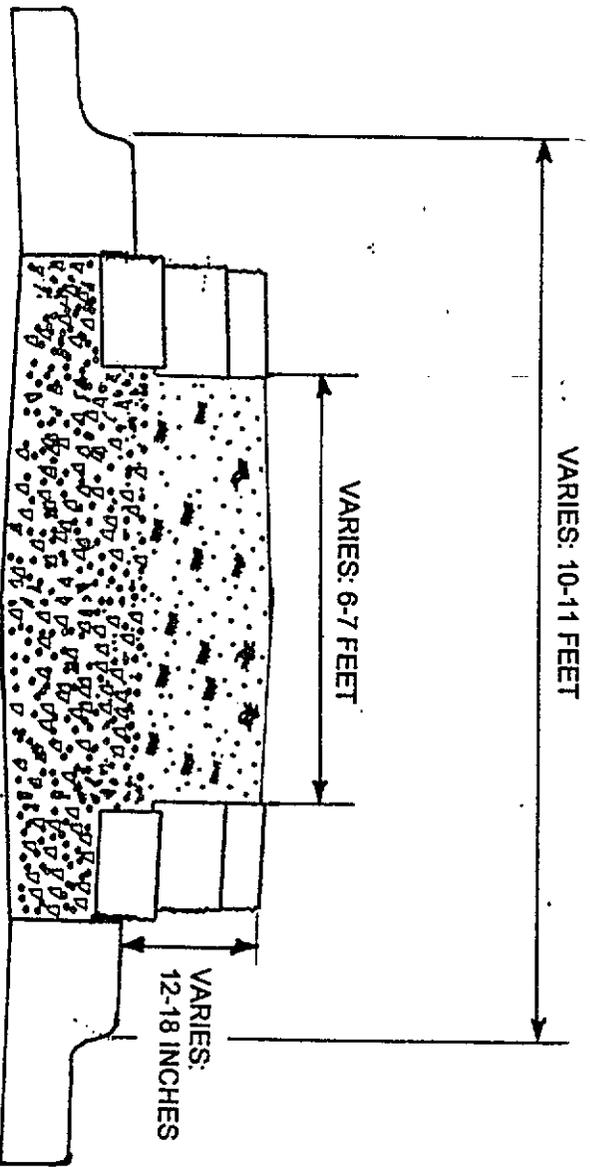
Attest: S. Ristuben, Asst City Clerk.

MOTION:

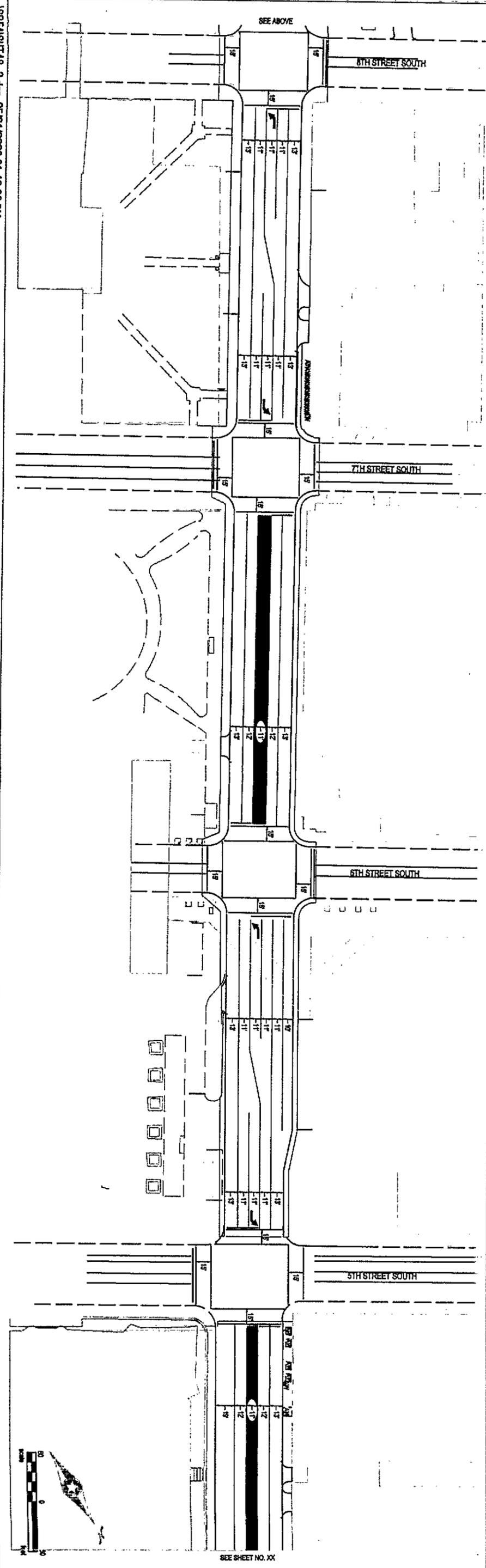
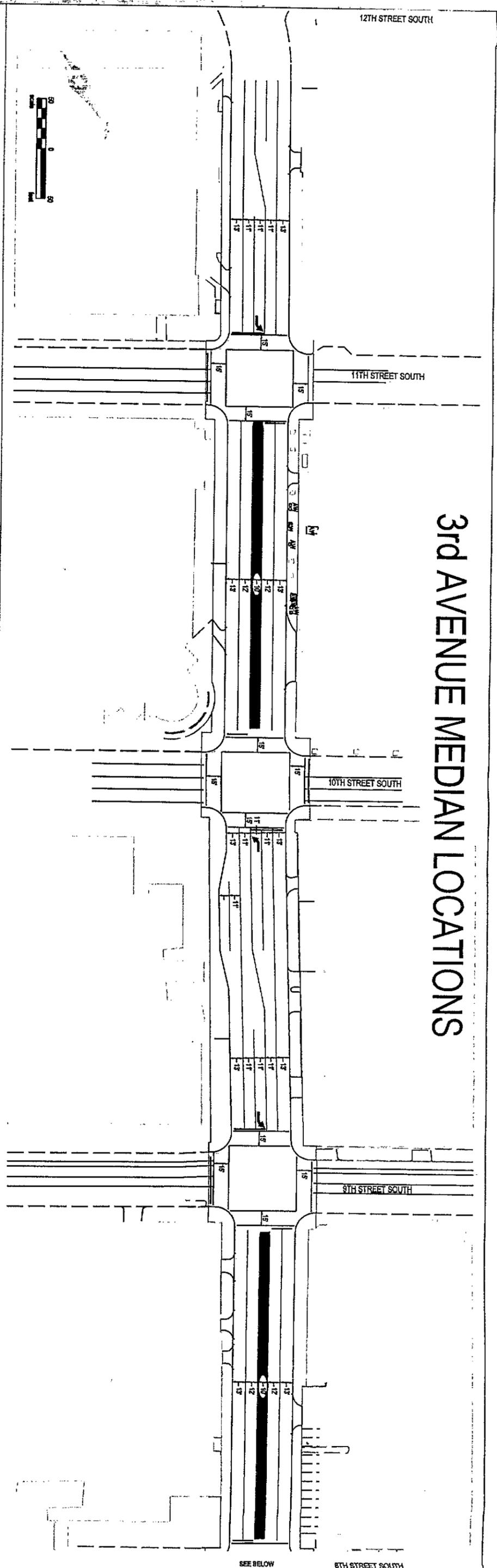
That the City Council direct Public Works staff to facilitate the greening of the center boulevards on Third Avenue downtown by

- a) Not performing the early re-paving of Third Avenue south of I-94 and moving this project back to its place in the regular street maintenance schedule;
- b) Preparing plans in a timely manner to place planters and irrigation infrastructure in the center boulevards of the downtown Third Avenue reconstruction project;
- c) Transferring funds available for the early re-paving of Third Avenue south of I-94 to the greening project for the downtown section of Third Avenue.

# PROPOSED MEDIAN PLANTER CROSS SECTION



# 3rd AVENUE MEDIAN LOCATIONS



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# 3rd AVENUE MEDIAN LOCATIONS

