



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

Date: April 20, 2004
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Referral to:

Subject: Midtown Greenway (Phase 3) Layout Approval

Recommendation:

1. Approve layout for Phase 3 of the Midtown Greenway

Previous Directives:

Prepared by: Donald Pflaum, Transportation Engineer, 673-2129

Approved by:

Klara A. Fabry, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Jon Wertjes, P.E., Assistant Director, Transportation and Parking Services

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):

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

Background/Supporting Information:

Phase 3 of the Midtown Greenway extends from Hiawatha Avenue to the Mississippi River via the Canadian Pacific Railway Corridor and is scheduled for construction in 2005. This project is a joint project between the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County. Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority is currently in the process of acquiring the needed right-of-way for the trail from Canadian Pacific Railway. The City of Minneapolis will own and maintain the trail when completed. Federal funds for this project have been secured and final design is currently in progress. In order to meet deadlines associated with the federal funding sunset extension date, the final design, right-of-way certificates, and project specifications must be completed by Summer 2004. Layout approval is now required to keep the project moving on schedule.

A final community input meeting was held on March 23, 2004 to resolve all remaining neighborhood issues associated with this project. This was a joint meeting of the Longfellow Neighborhood and the Seward Neighborhood and the last public forum to discuss major trail design issues. The primary issues that were discussed involved the placement and design of several access points at Ann Sullivan School, Brackett Park, and West River Parkway. It was concluded that all three ramps would be pursued as presented in the enclosed layout. The Longfellow Neighborhood agreed to financially contribute toward the Brackett Park ramp construction and toward Midtown Greenway enhancements. At that meeting there were a number of resident questions and comments that were addressed by Public Works and Hennepin County staff. Resident votes were taken to resolve issues of contention. Both neighborhoods have provided position letters that are enclosed. Each neighborhood will select a delegate to work with the city and county project engineers in the coming months to resolve any remaining technical trail design issues.

The exact trail crossing location at Minnehaha Avenue is yet to be determined. As can be seen in Exhibit A (1 of 3) there are two options for crossing Minnehaha Avenue. The exact crossing location will be worked out in the final design process.

Attachments:

Exhibit A – Midtown Greenway (Phase 3) Layout

Exhibit B – Midtown Greenway (Phase 3) Cross Sections

Exhibit C – Longfellow Neighborhood Letter

Exhibit D – Seward Neighborhood Letter

CC: Council Member Zerby

Council Member Schiff

Dean Michalko – Hennepin County

Larry Blackstad – Hennepin County

Longfellow Neighborhood

Seward Neighborhood