



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

Date: November 30, 2010
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Subject: **Temporary Easement Acquisition for 10th Avenue Southeast Storm Tunnel Outlet Project**

Recommendation:

Authorize the proper City officials to execute a "Temporary Construction Agreement" with the University of Minnesota granting Temporary (Construction) Easements for the 10th Avenue Southeast Storm Tunnel Outlet construction project, agreeing to accept the property as is, agreeing to cleanup contamination found by the City, if any, agreeing to indemnify the University for any liability arising from the City's use of the easement area and agreeing to other conditions as provided therein..

Previous Directives:

November 18th, 2010: Amend the 2010 Capital Budget by increasing the Storm Drains & Tunnel Rehab Program appropriation by \$5,200,000, to be funded through stormwater revenue available in the Stormwater Fund balance and accept low bids to complete the 10th Ave Tunnel Dewatering Wells and the construction of the 10th Ave Storm Tunnel Outlet Replacement Project

May 14th, 2010: Authorize negotiation and execution of Temporary and Permanent Easements for the 10th Avenue Southeast Storm Tunnel Outlet construction project

December 7th, 2009: Resolution 2009R-587, Ways & Means/Budget Committee adopted the 2010- 2014 Five Year Capital Program.

Prepared by: Joe Klejwa, Professional Engineer, Department of Public Works
Surface Water and Sewers Division, 673-5608

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

Presenters: Joe Klejwa, Professional Engineer, Department of Public Works
Surface Water and Sewers Division, 673-5608

Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval NA Date _____
Civil Rights Approval Approval NA Date _____
Policy Review Group (PRG): Approval NA Date _____

Financial Impact

No financial impact

Action is within the Business Plan

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

The City of Minneapolis has deep storm water tunnels that discharge to the Mississippi River. The 10th Avenue Southeast storm water tunnel system is located in southeast Minneapolis under 10th Avenue SE. The tunnel connects the surface drainage systems at Arthur St NE and Kennedy St NE on the north, East Hennepin Ave and Pierce St NE on the west, and 8th St SE and 15th Ave SE on the east to the Mississippi River.

The existing outlet section, constructed in 1882, starts at the Mississippi River and ends at 2nd Ave SE. It is a 6'- 6" x 6'- 6", 439 foot long horseshoe shaped tunnel constructed of a brick floor, limestone block walls, and a cast-in-place concrete arch roof. It was originally a sanitary sewer outlet connecting a shaft hole at 2nd Ave SE to the river.

Although the existing outlet section is generally in fair condition, it is significantly smaller than the remaining sections of the tunnel and causes large pressurization in the upstream tunnel segments. The pressurization is causing significant deterioration of the upstream tunnel liner, resulting in longitudinal fractures in the tunnel liner and voiding outside of the tunnel liner in the soft St. Peter Sandstone. The proposed project will enlarge the diameter of the tunnel in the existing alignment and alleviate some of the pressurization, which is causing the accelerated deterioration of the tunnel. Future 10th Ave SE tunnel projects will address the structural concerns of the upstream portion of the storm water and adjacent tunnels.

In order to complete the work, a temporary construction easement is needed from the University of Minnesota to provide a staging area for the contractor as well as the ability to perform the work required to enlarge and reconstruct this section of the 10th Ave SE tunnel and outlet. Staff has been working with the University of Minnesota regarding language for the Temporary Easement. Negotiated language includes accepting liability for causing release of potential pre-existing environmental contamination and indemnification of the University of Minnesota for potential expenses related to the use of the easement area including loss, damage and liability.

City staff does not anticipate encountering contamination, but has a contingency plan in place with the University and the contractor in the event that existing contamination is found. This summer geotechnical borings were drilled adjacent to the existing storm tunnel located on University property. No discoloration of soil, odor, or other evidence of contamination were detected in the borings. A search of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) records of contaminated sites and releases did not turn up known sites near the existing storm tunnel and outlet at the Mississippi River flats area.

Public Works staff believes that the benefits of replacing a portion of the existing storm tunnel and relieving the high pressure within the tunnel system outweighs the potential of encountering contamination that can be managed and dealt with.

The construction of the outlet is scheduled to start in December 2010. The funding for the project will be 2009R-587 (07300-9010932-SW011) Storm Drains & Tunnel Rehabilitation Program.

Attachment: Temporary construction easement map

Cc: Council Member Kevin Reich, Ward 1
Council Member Diane Hofstede, Ward 3
Lisa Cerney, Director - Surface Water and Sewers

Temporary construction easement map



County (Feet) 536,425.54E 168,672.10N Elevation (Ft) 739.4
Lat/Lon (Degrees) N 44D 58.762M W 93D 14.555M

