



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

Date: September 25, 2007
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Subject: **27th Avenue South Modifications to Enhanced Sidewalk to Lower Streetscape Project Costs (East Lake Street to Minnehaha Avenue) Project No 6217**

Recommendation:

- a. Receive and File

Previous Directives:

- June 29, 2007 Council Resolution 2007R-324 - Project Approval and Ordering Work to Proceed
- May 11, 2007 Council Resolution 2007R-231 and 2007R-232, Project Designation

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Approved by:

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

Presenters: Ole Mersinger, P.E., Project Engineer, Transportation Planning & Engineering 673-3537

Permanent Review Committee (PRC) Approval _____ Not applicable X

Policy review Group (PRG) Approval _____ Not applicable X

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- X 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
____ Business Plan: ____ Action is within the plan. ____ Action requires a change to plan.
____ Other financial impact (Explain):

— Request provided to department's Finance Dept. contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Not Applicable

City Goals: Maintain the physical infrastructure to ensure a healthy, vital and safe city

Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable

Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

27th Avenue South is a Municipal State Aide Route (MSA 410) from East Lake Street to Minnehaha Avenue. This street segment is in the process of being reconstructed by City of Minneapolis forces. As part of the design of this project, Public Works staff collected signatures from property owners along 27th Avenue South in support of a streetscape consisting of trees, decorative lighting and enhanced sidewalk scoring as part of the reconstruction project. 27th Avenue South property owners consisting of 57% of the linear footage of the road reconstruction project indicated a desire to have a streetscape project similar to what is present on East Lake Street included in the road reconstruction project.

At the June 19, 2007, Public Hearing the Executive Director from the Resource Center of the Americas noted that even though they voted in favor of a streetscape project, they would be in favor of decreasing the scope of the project to lower their assessment amount due to financial difficulties. Public Works staff were directed to review and report back at a later date regarding options and procedures for potential modifications of the enhanced sidewalk to lower the streetscape project costs.

On August 2, 2007, Public Works held a preconstruction meeting for the 27th Avenue South Reconstruction Project. At this meeting the Resource Center of the Americas Executive Director was concerned about the walkability of the enhanced sidewalk surface and indicated a reduction in the decorative scoring pattern was desired. The Executive Director was not interested in having Public Works partake in a petition effort to removal all of the sidewalk scoring. Another property owner, Steve Krause, also expressed a desire to limit the scoring pattern to aid in routine maintenance and cleaning.

On August 16, 2007, the Resource Center of the Americas ceased operations at their location on 27th Avenue South.

Public Works is proceeding with an alternative enhanced scoring pattern which provides less scoring and a lower streetscape assessment to property owners.

Cc: Council Member Gary Schiff, Ward 9