



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

**Date:** July 21, 2009  
**To:** Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee  
**Referral:** Honorable Paul Ostrow, Chair Ways & Means/Budget Committee  
**Subject:** **Hiawatha Trail Connection Project**

### Recommendation:

Contingent upon Transit for Livable Communities (TLC) approval of \$460,000 of additional federal grant funding for the Hiawatha Trail Connection Project:

1. Passage of a resolution committing to supporting a 2010 capital appropriation that includes \$267,000 for the BIK08 Hiawatha Trail Connection Project.
2. Passage of a Resolution authorizing the proper City officials to execute inter-agency agreements with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for Federal Participation in the Hiawatha Trail Connection Project.
3. Authorize the proper City officials to negotiate and acquire trail easements/use permits for the Hiawatha Trail Connection Project

### Previous Directives:

October 5, 2007: Resolution 2007R-512. Appoint Commissioner of Transportation as agent of the City of Minneapolis and enter into an agreement to accept grants for the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program.

October 5, 2007: Resolution 2007R-511. Amend the 2007 Capital Appropriation Resolution and increase the appropriation for the Hiawatha Trail Connection by \$800,000 in the Grants-Federal Fund category.

December 19, 2005: Resolution 2005R-661. Requesting the Board of Estimation and Taxation incur indebtedness and issue and sell City of Minneapolis bonds in the amount of \$223,000 for the Hiawatha Trail Connection project.

December 19, 2005: Resolution 2005R-658. Adopted in the Capital Improvement Program and setting the project appropriation at \$487,000

**Prepared by:** Ole Mersinger, Project Engineer 673-3537  
Don Elwood, P.E., Director, Transportation Planning & Engineering, 673-3622

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

**Presenters in Committee:** Ole Mersinger, Project Engineer

## Reviews

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

## Financial Impact

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget  
 Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

## Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification:  
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

## Purpose of this Letter

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Council that the Hiawatha Trail Connection project will require additional city net debt bond funding as well as additional federal grant funding in order to be completed.

In addition, the off-road portion of the trail is located on right-of-way that is owned by Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority and the Metropolitan Council. As such, Public Works is requesting approval to acquire trail easements/use permits to construct the trail.

Finally, Public Works is requesting approval to enter in the necessary agreements with MnDOT for this project.

## Background/Supporting Information

The Hiawatha Trail Connection Project consists of extending the current Hiawatha bicycle from its termini at 11<sup>th</sup> Ave to Hennepin Ave by using an off-road combined use trail and on-road bike lanes. A return bike lane will be incorporated on 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Norm McGrew Place from Chicago Ave to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. This trail replaces the lane removed from 5<sup>th</sup> Street when light rail was installed and completes an important bicycle/pedestrian link into downtown.

In 2007, this project was awarded \$800,000 through the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot (NTP) Program federal grant program. As design of the project progressed, it became apparent that an increased scope was necessary to appropriately address safety concerns and more complex design and construction conditions than were anticipated in the original project estimate (described below). The current project cost estimate is \$1,750,000. In order to cover this funding gap and move forward with the project, an additional \$460,000 has been requested from the NTP program and an additional \$267,000 in city funding is needed to cover costs not eligible to be funded by NTP money (in addition to the \$223k in city net debt bond funding already allocated to the project).

Unanticipated project elements that account for the majority of the increase in the estimated cost of the project include the modification of the intersection at Norm McGrew Place and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and a more extensive retaining wall. A traffic signal and curb extensions will be added to the intersection of Norm McGrew Place and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. These modifications will shorten bicyclists and pedestrian crossings at the intersection and create a safer intersection for both due to speeds of vehicles exiting the highway and limited sight lines. The modifications at this

intersection were not included in the original project but are deemed necessary for the safety of trail users.

In addition, a new retaining wall will be constructed parallel to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to support the new off-road trail within City right-of-way. A fence will be constructed near conflict points with light rail and 3<sup>rd</sup> street as well for safety concerns along the trail. These modifications were also not included in the original project but are deemed necessary for the safety of trail users.

TLC will be considering the request for \$460,000 at their meeting on July 20, 2009. If the additional funding is not granted, staff will recommend that the \$800,000 grant be given up and the project be terminated. If TLC grants the additional funds, staff will work with the Mayor's Office to develop a 2010 capital program that includes \$267,000 for the Hiawatha Trail Connection project.

Cc: Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7  
Don Elwood, Transportation Planning and Engineering  
Jon Wertjes, Traffic and Parking Services  
Jack Yuzna, Transportation Planning and Engineering  
Greg Schroeder, Transportation Planning and Engineering