



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

Date: October 12, 2004
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Referral to: Honorable Barb Johnson, Chair Ways & Means/Budget Committee

Subject: Request various approvals and actions related to the proposed Como Avenue Street Reconstruction Project

Recommendation:

1. Approve the project layout, revised June 30, 2004, for reconstruction of Como Avenue from 22nd Avenue Southeast to 33rd Avenue Southeast.
2. Adopt a resolution directing the City Engineer to proceed with a formal request for a variance from State Aid for vertical clearance for an underpass on Como Avenue under the railroad bridge.
3. Direct Public Works to enter and execute cooperative agreements with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad as necessary to facilitate construction.
4. Authorize Public Works to negotiate with private property owners to acquire and execute easements and additional right of way, if necessary.
5. Adopt a resolution holding harmless the State of Minnesota from actions that may arise from the granting of a variance that would permit the reconstruction of Como Avenue (22nd Avenue Southeast to 33rd Avenue Southeast) with a vertical clearance under the railroad bridge of 13'-6" from station 52+06.00 to station 52+84.50 rather than the 14'-6" required in Chapter 8820.9956 of the Minnesota Rules.

Prepared by: Lisa Cerney, Project Engineer, 673-3061

Approved by:

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

Presenters: Lisa Cerney, Project Engineer, Public Works

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 Attached:

Project/Scope

- Como Avenue is a Municipal State Aid Street (MSA 166) and a main corridor from the neighborhoods around the University of Minnesota to St. Paul, as well as a major bus and bicycle route. The segment between 22nd Avenue Southeast and 33rd Avenue Southeast was constructed in 1960 and currently has a PCI (Pavement Condition Index) rating of 61 (in a range of 0 to 100, where 100 is best). The segment is 0.69 miles with an average existing ADT of 7,700 and an average future ADT estimated at 8,500.
- The current roadway carries two way traffic (one lane each direction) with restricted parking on each side of the roadway. The proposed roadway will carry two way traffic (one lane each direction), bike lanes (one lane each direction) and a parking lane on the south side. The proposed layout will maintain driving lane widths of 11.5 feet, provide bike lanes of 5 feet, and include a parking lane of 10 feet. (Please see attached layout).
- Public Works has worked with affected property owners and neighborhood associations at a public project meeting to complete the project layout.

State Aid Variance and Hold Harmless

- This project requires a variance from State Aid for vertical clearance for an underpass on Como Avenue under the railroad bridge located between 22nd Avenue Southeast and 23rd Avenue Southeast. State Aid Rule 8820.9956 requires a vertical clearance of 14'-6". The existing vertical clearance is 13'-6". One of the requirements of the State Variance process is to develop options.
- Three options will be explored, considering safety and costs.

Options A and B do not meet the required 14'-6" vertical clearance, and would require a variance from the State Aid Rules.

Option A is to design with the existing vertical alignment and does not improve safety.

Option B is to design with the existing vertical alignment using concrete pavement. This option would improve the vertical clearance by 9". The design speed of this option is 30 mph with a vertical clearance of 14'-3". This option may not be feasible because of the bridge footings and underground utilities.

Option C is to design for and meet all criteria for vertical curves, vertical clearance for an underpass and design speed with a vertical clearance of 14'-10" and a vertical curve of 150'. This option may not be feasible because of the bridge footings and underground utilities.

Public Works will be seeking a variance for option A. If it is later determined that option B is feasible, Public Works will pursue improving the safety under the railroad bridge as much as possible.

- The Public Works Department requests the City Council adopt a resolution that indemnifies, saves and holds harmless the State of Minnesota from any action arising out of the reconstruction of Como Avenue in a manner than is in accordance with Minnesota Rule 8820.9956 which requires a vertical clearance of 14'-6" rather than the 13'-6" vertical clearance designed from station 52+06.00 to station 52+84.50.

Railroad

- A section of the roadway along Como Avenue between 22nd Street and 33rd Street is under the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. Public works may need to enter and execute agreements with the railroad.

Schedule, Costs and Funding

- The construction of this project is scheduled for 2005.
- The estimated cost of this project is \$4,236,000, of which \$3,433,000 will be funded with MSA (Municipal State Aid) funds, \$115,000 will be funded by NDB (Net Debt Bonds), and \$688,000 will be funded by ASSMB (Assessment Bonds).

Next Steps

- At a future meeting, we will return to your committee to obtain approval to conduct an assessment hearing.

The purpose of this action is to obtain Council Approval of the project layout, adopt a resolution directing the City Engineer to proceed with a formal request for a variance from State Aid for vertical clearance for an underpass and median width on Como Avenue under the railroad bridge, direct Public Works to enter and execute cooperative agreements as necessary, authorize Public Works to negotiate with private property owners to acquire easements if necessary, adopt a resolution holding harmless the State of Minnesota from actions that may arise from the granting of the aforesaid variance.

Attachment 1 - Project layout, revised June 30, 2004 for reconstruction of Como Avenue from 22nd Avenue Southeast to 33rd Avenue Southeast.

cc: Council Member Paul Ostrow, Ward 1
Council Member Paul Zerby, Ward 2