



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

Date: August 22, 2006
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Subject: Northstar Corridor Construction Agreement

Recommendation:

- a) Authorize proper city officials to negotiate and enter into an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to reimburse the City of Minneapolis for project construction work.
- b) Authorize proper city officials to amend the design agreement between the City of Minneapolis and Northstar Corridor Development Authority (NCDA) to redesign sewer and water utility locations.

Previous Directives:

- May 2 – 2006 Authorize proper city officials to enter into an agreement with the Northstar Corridor Development Authority (NCDA) to reimburse the City of Minneapolis for project design work.

Prepared by: Donald Pflaum, P.E., Transportation Engineer, 612-673-2129

Approved by:

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

Presenters: Donald Pflaum, Transportation Engineer, 612-673-2129

Permanent Review Committee (PRC) Approval _____ Not applicable X

Policy review Group (PRG) Approval _____ Not applicable X

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 – Capital Only
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Not Applicable

City Goals: Connected Communities – A connected network of transportation options

Comprehensive Plan: Consistent

Zoning Code: Consistent

Background/History:

In May 2006 the City Council authorized the proper city officials to enter into two separate agreements with the North Star Corridor Development Authority (NCDA). The first agreement reimburses the city for design work completed to date and was executed in June 2006. The NCDA has taken on responsibility for paying for all design costs associated for this project. The second agreement reimburses the city for utility relocation work associated with the Hiawatha Light Rail extension from 1st Avenue North to 6th Avenue North along 5th Street North. At the time of execution, MnDOT informed the City of Minneapolis that the second agreement should be between the City of Minneapolis and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and not the NCDA since MnDOT has since taken possession of the 5th street corridor by Commissioner's orders and has since assumed project construction. To keep the project on schedule the agreement between the two agencies was signed in July 2006 and it was determined that a correction action should be brought before the City Council to modify the May 12, 2006 Council Action.

The North Star Project Office has been working very closely with city utilities and other utilities over the last several months. Since the construction agreement has been executed the North Star Project Office in collaboration with the City of Minneapolis have come up with a new utility solution that will save the project over \$500,000. To accomplish this cost savings the North Star Project Office has agreed to reduce the LRT track setback requirements, which allows the existing storm water pipes to remain. This solution allows the water department to fully utilize the corridor space allocated for the proposed storm water utility resulting in better separation between the public and private utilities in this corridor and allowing for better construction staging, therefore resulting in better coordinated lane closures. To accommodate these changes the design agreement needs to be amended to show the new sewer and water design exhibits and adjusted cost estimates.