



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

Date: February 2, 2010

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Referral: Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair Ways and Means

Subject: **Hiawatha Trail Extension**

Recommendation:

1. Passage of a Resolution amending the 2010 Capital Improvement Program (Resolution 20XXR-XXX) as follows:
 - i. Accept \$230,000 in Non-motorized Transportation Program funds (NTP) from Transit for Livable Communities (TLC)
 - ii. Increase the Appropriation and Revenue to the Hiawatha Trail Extension Project (BIK008) to Fund/Department (4100/9010943/321000) by \$230,000
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 Extension Project.
3. Authorize the proper City officials to negotiate and acquire trail easements/use permits for the Hiawatha Trail Extension Project

Previous Directives:

- December 7, 2009: Resolution adopting the 2010-2014 five year Capital program and appropriating \$267,000 to the Hiawatha trail project.
- 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
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Approved by:

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

Presenter: Jack Yuzna, Principal Professional Engineer

Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval NA Date

Civil Rights Approval Approval NA Date

Policy Review Group (PRG): Approval NA Date

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

 X Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

 X 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 of the status of the Hiawatha Trail Connection project and to accept additional federal grant funding from Transit for Livable Communities (TLC) for the construction of the project. 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 Extension Project consists of extending the current Hiawatha bicycle from its termini at 11th Ave to Hennepin Ave through the use of an off-road combined use trail and on road bike lanes. An eastbound bike lane will be incorporated on 4th Street and Norm McGrew PI from Chicago Ave to 3rd Street. This trail replaces the lane removed from 5th Street when light rail was installed and completes an important bicycle/pedestrian link into downtown.

This project includes an off-road bicycle and pedestrian trail between 11th Ave and Norm McGrew PI along 3rd Street and transitions to an on street bicycle lane at Norm McGrew. The intersection at Norm McGrew PI and 3rd Street will be modified to include a pedestrian/bicycle flasher and curb extensions. 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 3rd 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 3rd street as well as 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.

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 is necessary to appropriately address safety concerns and more complex design and construction conditions than were anticipated in the original project estimate. The July 2009 project cost estimate was \$1,750,000. In order to cover this funding gap and move forward with the project, an additional \$460,000 was requested from the NTP program and an additional \$267,000 in city net debt bond funding was needed to cover costs not eligible to be funded by NTP money (in addition to the \$223k in city net debt bond (NDB) funding already allocated to the project). Since July, TLC staff and consultants reviewed the project and suggested modifications which lowered the project cost. The cost savings primarily involved replacing a proposed full signal system at 3rd Street and McGrew with a pedestrian/bicycle flasher and anticipated lower costs based on the current construction environment. Public Works lowered the request for additional funding to \$230,000 to better reflect these savings and this request was approved by TLC as outlined in the attached correspondence.

Schedule and Funding

It is anticipated that the project will be bid spring of 2010. Project Funding consists of \$1,030,000 of NTP funds and \$490,000 of NDB

Attachment: Layout
TLC Letter

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