



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

Date: June 19, 2007

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

Subject: Minnesota Ballpark Final Environmental Impact Statement

Recommendation:

- A) Review and approve Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) comments and direct Public Works Department to submit comments to Hennepin County by the June 22nd deadline
- B) Refer FEIS comments to the City Council for approval

Previous Directives:

- March 9, 2007: Approval of comments and submittal of Draft Environmental Impact Statement comments to Hennepin County
- December 1, 2006: Approval of the sale of excess City-owned land located at 536 ½ Third av N. to Hennepin County
- June 16, 2006: Resolution 2006R-343: Approving the Ballpark implementation process
- June 17, 2005: Resolution 2005R-354, Supporting Legislation providing a process for community ownership of the Minnesota Twins.
- June 17, 2005: Resolution 2005R-353, Approving implementation principles for a new ballpark.
- December 29, 2003: Resolution 2003R-635, Approving the adoption of a policy on a new ballpark

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Greg Schroeder, Interim Director of Transportation Planning and Engineering,
673-3718

Approved by:

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

Presenters: Lisa Cerney

Permanent Review Committee (PRC)	Approval _____	Not applicable <u> X </u>
Policy review Group (PRG)	Approval _____	Not applicable <u> X </u>

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: Hennepin County will be holding a public meeting
City Goals: The City's infrastructure will be well maintained; people will feel safe in the City; a connected network of transportation options; Minneapolis' neighborhoods will have unique identities and character, plentiful green spaces and public gathering areas
Comprehensive Plan: Policy 9.13 Minneapolis will restore and maintain the traditional street grid. Downtown 2010: Maintain downtown as the location for the region's professional sports teams and ensure that the future sports facilities are located where they can compliment the existing retail and entertainment districts, take advantage of existing parking, transit facilities and maximize direct economic benefits to downtown.
Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

The following comments address the Minnesota Urban Ballpark Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) response to the comments and recommendations forwarded by Steve Kotke, Director of Public Works, on behalf of the City of Minneapolis on March 9, 2007.

The FEIS includes a Mitigation Measure Matrix analyzing the cost and feasibility of a comprehensive list of forty-five mitigation measures and commits to the preparation of a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) for the Ballpark's operations, in response to the City of Minneapolis recommendations.

The Mitigation Measure Matrix identifies twenty-three "Mitigation Measures Commitments" to be implemented as part of the Ballpark project. The specific funding arrangements and responsibilities are to be determined in the preparation of the TMP. An additional sixteen mitigation measures are listed for further consideration as part of the preparation of the TMP while six mitigation measures are rejected in the FEIS. The rejection of those six mitigation measures is premature at this point.

All six measures have a great potential to mitigate the transportation impacts resulting from Ballpark events. Some of those measures are part of ongoing discussions among affected agencies and others could be the subject of further discussions/negotiations between the parties. Therefore, the City of Minneapolis recommendation that the six mitigation measures rejected in the FEIS be carried into the TMP development process to better determine their feasibility.

The FEIS also incorporates an outline of the elements to be included in the TMP as well as a list of participants in the preparation of the TMP, in response to the recommendations of the City. It is important to reiterate the importance of identifying an Event Transportation Manager during the TMP development process.

A copy of a preliminary draft of the TMP prepared by the City is attached to these comments and could be used as a starting point in the TMP preparation process.

City personnel from the City Attorney's Office, CPED, Regulatory Services and Public Works reviewed the FEIS document. Additional specific comments are attached.

Proposed Action

The FEIS was released for public comment on June 4, 2007. Comments are due to Hennepin County on June 22, 2007. This time frame did not allow us sufficient time to review, prepare and compile comments, and present them to the City Council by the proposed deadline. As a result we are requesting authority from the Transportation and Public Works Committee to submit these draft comments to Hennepin County by the June 22nd, 2007 deadline. Upon approval by the City Council on June 29, we will submit final comments.

Attachments:

- Twins FEIS Comments (draft until council approved)
- Preliminary Draft TMP

Cc: Council Member Lisa Goodman
Council Member Barb Johnson, Council President
Council Member Paul Ostrow
Jon Wertjes, Public Works
Barb Sporlein, Community Planning and Economic Development
Beth Grosen, Community Planning and Economic Development
Jason Wittenberg, Community Planning and Economic Development
Patrick Born, Finance Department
Robin Hennessy, City Attorney's Office