



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

**Date:** November 9, 2006  
**To:** Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee  
**Subject:** **Memorandum of Agreement Related to Chicago Ave S Bridge, Park Ave S Bridge, and Midtown Greenway Corridor Study**

**Recommendation:**

Authorize the Amendment of a Memorandum of Agreement (Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement Related to the Bridge Replacement Project S.P. 141-165-15, dated March 4, 2004), extending the completion date for mitigation of the historical impacts resulting from the replacement of the Chicago Avenue S and Park Avenue S Bridge Projects pending satisfactory review by the proper City Officials.

**Previous Directives:**

February 13, 2004 – Authorization to execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Hennepin County (County) and the City of Minneapolis for Mitigation of the historical loss due to the Replacement of the Chicago Avenue S and Park Avenue S Bridges over the Midtown Greenway (29<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor).

**Prepared by:** Rhonda Rae, P.E., Director Engineering Services Division, 612.673.3627  
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**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

**Presenter:** Stephanie Malmberg, P. E., Project Manager, Public Works

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/decrease to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase/decrease to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Business Plan:   X   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: Not Applicable

City Goals: Maintain the physical infrastructure to ensure a healthy, vital and safe city

Comprehensive Plan: Engineering Services has been working with CPED regarding development & future land use along the corridor

Zoning Code: Not Applicable

## **Background/Supporting Information**

### **History**

Section 106 “National Historic Preservation Act”, of the Code of Federal Regulations, requires projects receiving federal funding to determine if, within the project area, there exist archeological or historical elements and if the project will affect them. Both the City’s Chicago Avenue S Bridge (Project No. 92349) and the County’s Park Avenue Bridge (Project No. 90491) Replacement Projects received Federal funding. Since the two projects are adjacent to each other, the City, County, MnDOT’s Cultural Resource Unit and SHPO agreed that the production of a Midtown Greenway Corridor Study would provide mitigation caused by the historical loss of the bridges.

The MOA stipulates that the City and County complete a planning study for the bridges within the Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Grade Separation Historic District. The study is to include analysis of each bridge’s condition, potential for rehabilitation and any proposed schedule for replacement. It was also to include an analysis of the district and the effects of any further bridge removals within the district.

As it happens, the City’s Department of Public Works was also reviewing the current and future transportation needs of local streets crossing the corridor. Public Works, recognizing that transportation needs are integral to the programming of bridges in the corridor, decided it would be beneficial to include an analysis of traffic and circulation to the study.

The Study has been formatted to include two phases. Phase I addresses Traffic & Circulation and Phase II addresses Bridge Structures Evaluation.

### **Progress**

The report is approximately 90% complete. The Phase I Traffic and Circulation Study was completed in October of 2005. The results from Phase I will assist the City in making determinations about which bridges are the best candidates for retaining full vehicular access, removal (full closure) or reclassification (from vehicular to bike/pedestrian). The Phase I analysis took into account current land use, future development & traffic circulation. The final report includes a list of recommendations, from a transportation perspective, for each bridge with “local” roadway classification, located between Hennepin Avenue and Cedar Avenue S.

Phase II of the study has begun and involves looking at the bridges from a structural and historic perspective. Since it is not cost effective to analyze each of the bridges, a screening process was used that was largely defined by the results of the Traffic and Circulation Study (Phase I). Due to the repetitive design of these bridges, five bridges have been selected for more in-depth structural analysis. The bridges selected for the Phase II structural analysis include: Fremont, Pleasant, Columbus, 10th and 18<sup>th</sup> Avenues South. Analytical results from these five bridges, along with bridge inspection and maintenance records on the other structures, will yield enough information to rank and provide a programmatic classification to

each bridge between Hennepin and Cedar Avenues. For planning purposes we have identified the six Rs: Routine maintenance, Repair, Rehabilitate, Replace, Remove and Reclassify.

When the study is complete, Public Works will return to the T&PW Committee seeking authorization to submit the report to MnDOT's Cultural Resource Unit and SHPO. Following submittal of the study, it is anticipated that the City will seek additional input from the community as we proceed with the next steps involving the Corridor bridges.

### **Reason for Time Extension**

MnDOT's Cultural Resource Unit and SHPO recently requested that the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County and the Consultants provide additional information regarding the overall transit plans for the corridor and further investigate rehabilitation options for the structures located in the corridor. As a result of this additional request for information, MnDOT has extended the deadline to October 15, 2007.

### **Attachments:**

- Map of Midtown Greenway Transportation Study Area
- Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement between FHWA and SHPO related to the Bridge Replacement Project S.P. 141-165-15
- Amendment No. 1 to the Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement between FHWA and SHPO related to the Bridge Replacement Project S.P. 141-165-15

cc: All Council Members  
Beth Elliott, CPED/Planning Division  
Tom Leighton, CPED/Planning Division  
Greg Schroeder, Engineering Services  
Jack Yuzna, Engineering Services