



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

Date: March 2, 2004
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Referral to: Honorable Barbara Johnson, Chair Ways & Means Committee
Subject: **\$50,000 Donation from Xcel Energy for Stone Arch Bridge Lighting Project**

Recommendation:

1. Adopt a resolution to accept a \$50,000 donation from Xcel Energy for purposes of lighting the arches of the Stone Arch Bridge.
2. Amend the 2004 Capital Appropriation Resolution by \$50,000 for the Stone Arch Bridge Lighting project (Permanent Improvement/Transportation Capital/Street Lighting, Fund 4100 Agency 943 Org 9432).
3. Authorize the City Engineer to negotiate an agreement with Xcel or other donors to light the Stone Arch Bridge under the following terms:
 - Xcel or other donors will donate the design, labor and materials at no cost to the City, or will donate funds to cover the costs of design, labor and materials.
 - Xcel or other donors will donate funds to cover the City's cost to operate and maintain the lights or an alternative private funding source shall be secured.
4. Authorize the City Engineer to negotiate an agreement with MnDOT that allows the City to install and maintain lights on the Stone Arch Bridge.

Previous Directives:

- None

Prepared by: Heidi Hamilton, P.E., Principal Professional Engineer, 673- 3439

Approved by:

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

Presenters: Heidi Hamilton

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:

The Mayor, Xcel Energy and a key group of business leaders have undertaken the ambitious endeavor of lighting the James J. Hill Stone Arch Bridge at St. Anthony Falls, a National Civil Engineering Landmark. The goal of this group is to raise sufficient funds for the installation, operation and maintenance of the lights from private sources, so the project can be completed without requiring City capital or operating resources. The goal is to “flip the switch” on the evening of July 4th – as part of the Grand Excursion celebration this summer – so time is of the essence.

At the request of the Mayor, Public Works has agreed to manage the project. In order to achieve the ambitious timeline, action must be taken prior to all of the funds and agreements being in place.

Xcel has donated \$50,000 to get the project underway. Two private citizens have agreed to lead the fundraising campaign, and are working closely with a multi-jurisdictional implementation team. The architectural firm of Meyer, Scherer, & Rockcastle (MS&R) has contributed pro bono services towards this effort, including the preliminary lighting design. We are proceeding with necessary authorizations from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (the owner of the bridge), Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office and others.

The preliminary lighting design includes installing two light fixtures near the top of each arch that will be cross aimed to provide a uniform wash of light. Warm colored high-pressure sodium lights will accentuate the natural color of the limestone. Baffles will be installed on each fixture to reduce side glare from the light source and to confine the light to the interior of the arch. Six additional light fixtures will be located along the bottom cord of the trestle and will be aimed directly upward to illuminate the interior and top of the trestle structure.

In order to continue moving ahead, the following City Council actions are necessary at this time:

1. Resolve to accept a \$50,000 donation from Xcel Energy for purposes of lighting the arches of the Stone Arch Bridge.
2. Amend the 2004 Capital Appropriation Resolution by \$50,000 for the Stone Arch Bridge Lighting project (Permanent Improvement/Transportation Capital/Street Lighting, Fund 4100 Agency 943 Org 9432).
3. Authorize the City Engineer to negotiate an agreement with Xcel or others to light the Stone Arch Bridge under the following terms:
 - Xcel or other donors will donate the design, labor and materials at no cost to the City, or they will donate funds to cover the costs of design, labor and materials.
 - Xcel or other donors will either donate funds to cover the City’s cost to operate and maintain the lights or an alternative private funding source shall be secured.
4. Authorize the City Engineer to negotiate an agreement with MnDOT that allows the City to install and maintain lights on the Stone Arch Bridge.

We will return to your committee with final details to obtain authorization to execute the agreement. Additional donations received for the project will also be brought to the City Council for acceptance.

cc: David Fey, Deputy Mayor
Carol Lansing, Assistant City Attorney
Dan Pfeiffer, Xcel Energy
Bernie Maciej, Finance