



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

Date: August 9, 2011

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

Referral: Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair Ways and Means Committee

Subject: Lowry Bridge Phase II Cooperative Agreement and Funding

Recommendation:

- A. Authorize the appropriate City Officers to execute a Cooperative Agreement with Hennepin County for the construction of the Lowry Avenue Bridge Phase II.
- B. Decrease MSA appropriation in 04100-9010937 CPV029 Chicago Avenue revenue source 321514 in the amount of \$2,000,000.
- C. Increase MSA appropriation in 04100-9010938 CBR121 Lowry Avenue Bridge revenue source 321514 in the amount of \$2,000,000.

Previous Directives:

August 14, 2009: Council Action (2009R-378) resolution approving Hennepin County's final bridge plans for the Lowry Avenue Mississippi River Bridge and recommend entering into a cooperative agreement with Hennepin County.

February 6, 2009: Council Action (Petition No 273273) approval and submittal of the City's comments to Hennepin County's Lowry Avenue Bridge Reconstruction Project's Environmental Assessment Worksheet.

March 6, 2009: Council Action (Petition No 273330) approval of the preliminary layout for the Lowry Avenue Bridge over the Mississippi River, between 2nd Street North on the West and Marshall Street on the east, as provided by Hennepin County.

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Approved by:

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

Presenter: Ole Mersinger, Project Engineer

Reviews Not Applicable

Financial Impact

Action is within available budgets.

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Hennepin County is leading and coordinating the Public communications for this project with the City and Neighborhoods

City Goals: A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME, CONNECTED COMMUNITIES:
The city's infrastructure will be well- maintained, people will feel safe in the city
Comprehensive Plan: Implements the transportation policies set forth in the city's comprehensive plan
Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information:

The Lowry Avenue Bridge is situated at the border of four city neighborhoods; McKinley, Hawthorne, Bottineau, and Marshall Terrace. Originally named the 32nd Avenue Bridge, the first crossing was opened in 1905 and connected 25th Street Northeast and 32nd Street North. In 1915 the thoroughfare was officially named Lowry Avenue. Responding to the area's increasing economic needs, which included heavier vehicles above and the introduction of barge traffic below, the City of Minneapolis substantially, reconstructed the bridge in 1958. During a 2004 Hennepin County (County) repainting effort, inspectors discovered one of the piers had shifted nearly 11 inches. The bridge was closed for inspection and stopgap measures were subsequently instituted. The measures instituted included a more rigorous inspection regimen and the bridge was reopened the following year. The County's goal was to keep the bridge operational until its replacement could be constructed. Unfortunately, the bridge experienced an increased rate of movement in 2008 and was permanently closed to all traffic on April 25th the same year.

The Lowry Avenue Bridge Project is an initiative of the County. The County has been actively working on this project since it was identified by the County Board of Commissioners in its 2005 Capital Improvements Program. The primary goal of the project is to reconstruct the Lowry Avenue crossing of the Mississippi River. The proposed design provides a safe and efficient means of transporting people, goods, and services across and upon the Mississippi River between North and Northeast Minneapolis while balancing economic responsibilities and the community's desire for an area-defining bridge.

The County made extensive efforts in garnering input from residents and businesses during the preliminary design. The Project Advisory Committee, composed of leaders from the four neighborhood organizations and business community, met numerous times over the course of the preliminary design to discuss options and alternatives. In all, the County has engaged local residents at 14 project and open house meetings. Local, state and federal elected officials have been continuously updated and have given their support for the project as well.

In order to facilitate reconstruction, the County awarded a contract in 2009 for bridge removal. On June 21st, 2009, the deficient Lowry Avenue Bridge was imploded and subsequently removed from the site.

In Fall 2009 a contract for the Mississippi River Crossing was executed and construction is underway. In 2010, the County secured funding for Phase 2 of the project which is from the westerly terminus of Phase 1 (approximately 350 feet west of the Mississippi River) to 2nd Street North. This project consists of a bridge over CP Rail, retaining walls, roadway, lighting and storm water infrastructure. The County award the Phase 2 work to Lunda Construction, Co. this spring based on a low bid of \$18.6 million.

The County's construction cost participating policy is to split the construction expense with local government through a construction cooperative agreement.

Construction Cooperative Agreement Terms

The County is requesting the City to financially participate in certain construction items that are consistent with Hennepin County's construction cost participation policy. These items include construction (e.g., storm sewer, curb and pavement, signal systems and soil excavation and grading), engineering, and right-of-way acquisition costs. A breakdown for this project is as follows:

Construction Costs	\$ 765,000
Design Engineering	\$ 80,000
Construction Engineering	\$ 65,000
Right-of-way	\$ 900,000
SubTotal	\$ 1,810,000
Contingency	\$ 190,000
Total	\$ 2,000,000

Construction costs are based upon the statement of quantities and final bid tabulation. The actual quantities used during construction may be different from the estimated quantities. The City's actual construction expenditure will be determined from the final construction of the project. The value for Design and Construction Engineering are a percentage of Construction costs. The Contingency line item will cover any increases in the City's share in construction and associated engineering.

Right-of-way includes both temporary construction easements and permanent easements. The County entered quick take condemnation proceedings to allow construction to begin. Property settlement has occurred with all but one property owner. This property owner is currently contesting the condemnation through the legal system. As such, the City's total participation amount is an estimate by Hennepin County which includes \$700,000 for this parcel. Since the final value is not known, the amount paid by the City could increase and the final amount will be determined upon completion of legal proceedings.

The cooperative agreement also includes water main construction work to be completed by the City, for the benefit of the project, that will be reimbursed by Hennepin County. The approximate construction value is \$8,700. In addition, the cooperative agreement outlines the future ownership and maintenance of certain infrastructure installed as part of the project. A summary of infrastructure that will be owned and maintained by the City include:

- Storm water manholes, piping, and a new storm water pond
- Street lights
- Landscaping

The new traffic signal systems will be owned by the County and maintained by the City. The City will receive funding to maintain the County's traffic signals through the City-County Road Maintenance Agreement which is periodically updated.

The Minneapolis City Attorney's Office has completed a review of the cooperative agreement as to form and approved the language set forth in the document.

Budget

The estimated City's contribution to the County's project is \$2.0 million. Public Works recommends that the funding be provided by reducing the Chicago Avenue Project (CPV029) appropriation by \$2.0 million and transferring it to Lowry Avenue Bridge Phase 2. Currently the

Chicago Avenue project has in excess of \$3.0 million of reimbursable appropriations with approximately \$400,000 of identified cost. The remaining \$600,000 will be sufficient to cover all costs necessary to close the project. Work remaining on the Chicago Avenue project includes landscaping, punch list, and warranty work.

Schedule

Phase 2 construction has begun this spring. It is anticipated that both phases of the Lowry Avenue Bridge Project will be open in 2012.

Attachments: Phase II Layout

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