



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

Date: September 14, 2010
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Subject: **Lyndale Ave Bridge Layout Approval**

Recommendation:

Passage of a Resolution approving Hennepin County's proposed layout for County State Aid Highway 22, Lyndale Avenue South Bridge over Minnehaha Creek dated July 9, 2010.

Previous Directives:

None.

Prepared by: Ole Mersinger, Project Engineer 673-3537
Don Elwood, P.E., Director, Transportation Planning & Engineering, 673-3622

Approved by:

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

Presenters: Craig Twinem, Hennepin County Transportation Department, et al

Reviews: Not Applicable

Financial Impact

No financial impact

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Hennepin County is leading and coordinating the Public communications for this project with the City and Neighborhoods. There have been six meetings (4/6/2009, 5/21/2009, 9/30/2009, 6/1/2010, 6/15/2010, and 7/28/2010) with the Project Advisory Committee (made up of stakeholders and local residents and businesses) and one open house (7/13/2010) concurrent with Lyndale Avenue South (Minnehaha Creek to 56th Street S) reconstruction.

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

Background/Supporting Information

The Lyndale Avenue South Bridge is located on the dividing line between the Lynnhurst and Tangletown neighborhoods. Built in 1892, Bridge No, 90444 is a masonry arch structure with concrete abutments that has undergone numerous additions and repairs. The elevation of

Lyndale Avenue has changed with the addition of new headwalls, wingwalls and 8-foot sidewalks, which were added prior to 1956. Today, the bridge is considered “structurally deficient” and, as of its last inspection on October 24th, 2007, has a sufficiency rating of 35.2 out of 100. This rating does not mean that the bridge is unsafe for use by vehicles and pedestrians. It does mean that the bridge needs to either undergo significant repairs or be reconstructed. Concrete and steel deterioration below the sidewalks has progressed such that sidewalk and trail access have been limited or restricted.

The Lyndale Avenue Bridge Project is an initiative of Hennepin County. The County has been actively working on this project since it was identified by the County Board of Commissioners in its Capital Improvements Program. The primary goal of the project is to reconstruct the bridge. The proposed design provides a safe and efficient means of transporting people, goods, and services across Minnehaha Creek along Lyndale Avenue while maintaining the existing character of the area.

The County has made extensive efforts in garnering input from residents and businesses during the preliminary design. The Project Advisory Committee (PAC), composed of leaders from the four neighborhood organizations and business community, have met six times over the past year to discuss options and alternatives during the preliminary design phase. In addition, there has been one open house, with one additional open house and PAC meeting anticipated to occur in September.

Initial design options were also provided to Mn/DOT’s Cultural Resources Unit (CRU) who worked with the Minnesota State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) to review these options, a requirement of the project’s environmental review process under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. As a result of this review and subsequent historical and archeological studies, it was determined that the bridge was not a historic structure. At the same time, SHPO submitted the Grand Rounds for inclusion on the National Register of Historical Places. In this study, the Lyndale Avenue Bridge was not identified as a historic structure but the landform of the site was considered to be a contributing element to the Grand Rounds. As a result, the design of the bridge was revised to more closely match its current appearance as viewed from the path along Minnehaha Creek.

Layout

The limits of this project are between the east and west bound West Minnehaha Parkway, which parallel Minnehaha Creek. For this project, Lyndale Avenue and the associated bridge are proposed to be modified from 4 traffic lanes to 2 (each 11’ wide), a 12’ center turn lane, and 6’ shoulders. This will match the current roadway geometry north of the bridge and the proposed geometry south of the bridge. In addition, each side of the roadway is proposed to have 11’ wide sidewalks. The bridge section is proposed to have 14.5’ wide sidewalks to allow for a view of Minnehaha Creek from the bridge without impeding other pedestrian traffic.

The proposed bridge will be a 62’ wide concrete single span bridge with elliptical arch façade on each side in order to best match the existing bridge appearance from the creek. The 62’ width will allow for reconstruction of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board trail under the bridge on the north side of the creek.

The PAC, based on comments from the Open House, preferred the wall texture, the style of the railing, the shape of the façade, and the shape of the parapets. Street level lighting across the bridge will be the same as used on Lyndale Avenue to the north. In addition, the area under the bridge will have low-level lighting to improve the safety of trail users. The existing wood stairway that allows access from the northwesterly corner of the bridge to the creek will be replaced with a more maintenance-friendly concrete stairway.

Schedule

It is anticipated that final plans will be ready for City approval in December with bid letting occurring in February 2011. Construction is anticipated to take place during the 2011 construction season and will take place under total road closure.

Attachments: Bridge Layout and Rendering.

Cc: Don Elwood, Transportation Planning and Engineering
Jack Yuzna, Transportation Planning and Engineering
Craig Twinem, Hennepin County

T&PW – Your Committee recommends passage of the accompanying Resolution approving Hennepin County Transportation Department’s layout for County State Aid Highway 22 (CSAH 22) Bridge over Minnehaha Creek, dated July 9, 2010.

Colvin Roy

Resolution No. _____

Approving the Hennepin County Department of Transportation's layout for County State Aid Highway (CSAH 22) Lyndale Avenue Bridge over Minnehaha Creek, dated July 9, 2010.

Whereas, the Hennepin County Department of Transportation (County) has proposed the reconstruction of Lyndale Avenue Bridge over Minnehaha Creek; and

Whereas, the County formed a Project Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from the neighborhoods, businesses and elected officials to assist with providing guidance and recommendations for the project; and

Whereas, the City and County have held many meetings and open houses with the adjacent communities to solicit input for the development of the layout; and

Whereas, the City and County Departments of Public Works concur that the layout provides for the existing and future transportation needs and meets State standards; and

Whereas, staff has made its recommendation to the City Council based on said determination;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City of Minneapolis:

That the City approves the Hennepin County Department of Transportation's layout dated July 9, 2010) for Lyndale Avenue Bridge (County State Aid Highway 22) over Minnehaha Creek, as submitted.