



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

Date: February 13, 2007

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

Subject: **Minnesota Ballpark Project Area Roadway Changes**

Recommendation:

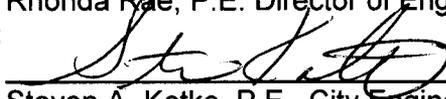
- A) Approval of the Minnesota Ballpark Project preliminary layout changes to 3rd Avenue North, the relocation of existing water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer lines and the temporary relocation of the Cedar Lake Bike Trail due to the proposed Minnesota Ballpark; subject to the street vacation process and adequate traffic mitigation measures and best practices including 3rd Avenue North.
- B) Approval of possible 6th Street North lane reduction between 2nd Avenue North and 1st Avenue North to accommodate the proposed 6th Street pedestrian bridge

Previous Directives:

- 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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Approved by:



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

Presenters: Lisa Cerney, P.E., Engineering Services

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)

- 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 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: DAG360 and Hennepin County led community meetings
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

Introduction and Summary of Current Process

The legislation for the Minnesota Twins Ballpark is described in the next section, "Minnesota Twins Ballpark Legislation and Update".

Hennepin County is paying all costs for infrastructure improvements related to the Ballpark as described in bid package 1. (See attached BP-1 Site Demolition, Utility Relocations and Mass Grading) This includes costs for relocation of sanitary sewers, storm water management facilities, water mains and temporary realignment of the Cedar Lake Bike Trail.

This letter provides an overview of the status of the project and recommends the approval of Minnesota Ballpark Project preliminary layout changes to 3rd Avenue North, the possible one lane reduction on 6th Street, and the relocation of existing water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer lines.

In the future, recommendations will be brought forward to the City Council regarding requests from the County for vacations of city right-of-way. Staff will also recommend other actions related to the impacts of the ballpark project, including but not limited to, Implementation Committee recommendations and future bid package approvals.

Minnesota Twins Ballpark Legislation and Update

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty signed the ballpark bill (HF2480) into law on Friday May 26, 2006. (See attached copy of the bill) In summary the law empowers Hennepin County to issue bonds to finance construction of the ballpark and related public infrastructure. The law also authorizes the establishment of the Minnesota Ballpark Authority (MBA) which will be responsible for the operation of the facility. Included in the legislation are provisions related to the City of Minneapolis, authority to fund additional hours at city and county libraries, and youth activities and youth and amateur sports.

The Minnesota Ballpark Authority is a public body, corporate and politic, and a political subdivision of the state. It is charged to oversee the construction and operation of the ballpark. The MBA will be governed by a five member committee that consists of:

- Two members appointed by the Governor
 - Michael Vekich, Vice Chair
 - John Wade, Treasurer
- Two members, including the chair, appointed by Hennepin County
 - Steve Cramer, Chair
 - Barb Sykora
- One member appointed by the Minneapolis City Council
 - Joan Campbell, Secretary

Dan Kenny was appointed by the MBA as the Executive Director of the Minnesota Ballpark Authority. The executive director will serve as the chief executive officer of the Ballpark Authority, responsible for day-to-day administration of MBA activities, and report directly to the authority's five commissioners.

The County can not contribute more than \$260.0 million for ballpark costs according to the legislation. The definition of ballpark has two parts. One defines ballpark costs while the other part excludes specific cost items. Section 6 subdivision 4 defines ballpark costs to include the cost of designing, constructing and equipping a ballpark suitable for Major League Baseball.

The county can not spend more than \$90.0 million for land, site improvements and public infrastructure excluding capital improvement reserves, bond reserves, capitalized interest and financing costs. Public infrastructure includes all property, facilities and improvements determined by the MBA or the county to facilitate the development and use of the ballpark including but not limited to property and improvements for drainage, environmental remediation, parking, roadways, skyways, pedestrian bridges, bicycle paths transit improvements to facilitate access to the ballpark, lighting, landscaping, utilities, streets and streetscapes.

The city's role in reviewing and approving the ballpark is also defined in the legislation. There is an alternative process for planning and zoning review. Recognizing that the ballpark project will involve the city, county, MBA and the Twins, the legislation established an implementation committee to conduct the initial review of the ballpark plan. The ten-member committee is comprised of an equal number of city and county representatives:

- Minneapolis appointees
 - Council Member Barb Johnson, Council President
 - Council Member Lisa Goodman
 - Council Member Paul Ostrow
 - Frank Guzzetta, Chairman and CEO of Macy's North
 - David Frank, North Loop Neighborhood Association
- Hennepin County appointees
 - County Commissioner Gail Dorfman
 - County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin
 - County Commissioner Mark J. Stenglein
 - Tim Rose, President, T. Rose and Associates
 - Curt Boganey, City Manager, City of Brooklyn Center

The committee is charged to make recommendations on the design plans for the ballpark, public infrastructure and related improvements within the county's planning and construction timetable. The committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the Minneapolis Planning Commission for an advisory recommendation and then to the city council for final action in a single resolution. City council action must occur within 45 days of the receipt of the implementation committee's recommendation by the Planning Commission. If the city council

does not act within the 45 day time frame, the recommendations are deemed approved. The city council shall not impose any unnecessary or unreasonable conditions on the recommendations of the implementation committee nor take any action that will result in delay from the planning and construction timetable or increase the project cost. It is expected the final design recommendations will be considered by the Implementation Committee, Planning Commission and City of Minneapolis. This action is tentatively scheduled for June 2007

The ballpark site is situated between the 7th Street Bridge, the HERC facility and Burlington North Rail Line, 5th Street Bridge and Interstate 394. There is a parking structure proposed southwest of this site and a private access road off of 3rd Avenue North and Metro Transit Turnaround. (See Ballpark site on Adjacent Transportation Options Map.) The public infrastructure impacted by this project is discussed below.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

1. Roadway Layout

Roadway Layout changes proposed by Hennepin County include the removal of 3rd Avenue North between 5th Street North and 7th Street North and loss of the west lane on 6th Street North between 2nd Avenue North and 1st Avenue North. (Illustrated on attachment entitled BP-1 Site Demolition, Utility Relocations and Mass Grading and attachment entitled Pedestrian Bridge and 3rd Avenue Removal Layout)

A segment of 3rd Avenue North is impacted by the footprint of this project and is currently designated as a Municipal State Aid Route (MSA). Public Works has approved Hennepin County's proposed layout for the MSA segment subject to the street vacation process and adequate mitigation measures. When Bid Package 1 plans are complete, Hennepin County will submit them to the City of Minneapolis for staff approval.

The 3rd Avenue North impact was identified prior to the signing of the ballpark bill. Since September 2006, City staff has worked closely with Hennepin County and their consultants preparing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS identifies several impacts to the City's roadway network as well as a comprehensive list of associated mitigation options. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is scheduled to be published in May or June of 2007. According to the current construction schedule roadway modifications will begin March 2007. Mitigation options will be discussed later in this letter.

The loss of the west lane of 6th Street North between 2nd Avenue North and 1st Avenue North is a possible impact due to the construction of the 6th Street pedestrian bridge. The pedestrian bridge between 2nd and 1st Avenue is currently an alternate in the project based on available infrastructure funding. The loss of one lane would not significantly impact the flow of traffic but would impact and require new coordination for Target Center operations. The continuation of the pedestrian bridge from 2nd Avenue to 1st Avenue will greatly benefit the pedestrian movement between the ballpark and the core of Minneapolis where existing parking and business exists.

2. Vacations of Public Streets, Alleys, Utility Easements

The county will be requesting the City vacate 3rd Avenue North between 5th Street North and 7th Avenue North and other miscellaneous segments including Holden Street and 11th Street North to accommodate infrastructure realignments, ballpark reconstruction, and ballpark operations. A public hearing on the vacation requests will be conducted in the future by the Minneapolis Planning Commission which will make a recommendation to the City Zoning and Planning Committee.

Utility easements will be required due to the relocation of the sanitary line, water main and storm line through the ballpark site and loss of 3rd Avenue North between 5th Street North and 7th Street North. Public Works has been working closely with Hennepin County and designers to ensure the needs for the utilities are maintained.

3. Relationship to the Northstar Line, Hiawatha Light Rail Extension and the Cedar Lake Bike Trail

The site is adjacent to the Northstar Commuter Rail and Burlington Northern Santa Fe line on the north and the Hiawatha Light Rail extension on the east. This project is currently under design and needs to be coordinated with the ballpark construction. Public Works also has the Cedar Lake Bike Trail project that will connect the existing trail to the Mississippi River. There have been several Cedar Lake Trail options presented to the City of Minneapolis, Cedar Lake Trail Association and North Loop Neighborhood Association. Hennepin County and its design team are working to present an option providing continuity through the ballpark site. (See map of adjacent transportation options.)

4. Future Mitigation for Traffic Concerns

Hennepin County's traffic modeling described in the Twins Ballpark DEIS predicts some congestion and failing intersections, particularly for weekday day games ending at the start of the afternoon rush hour. As part of the mitigation the City and Hennepin County have discussed at length the desire to create an Event Management Plan, as well as forming a corresponding Event Management Committee that will operate and manage the plan in an ongoing manner.

Mitigation options for the loss of the segment of 3rd Avenue North include directing local 3rd Avenue North vehicles down onto the 3rd Avenue Distributor Lane in the Interstate 394 trench and then back up to the local street grid near Glenwood Avenue. A better option appears to be modifying flow and lane direction on 2nd Avenue North between Washington Avenue and Royalston Avenue, creating a two way roadway segment. Staff from the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County are in the process of final evaluation to finalize a plan and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the 2nd Avenue North mitigation.

The attached draft document discussing "Transportation Mitigation Measures and Best Management Practices" is a means for ongoing discussion related to the Ballpark EIS.

Attachments:

- BP-1 Site Demolition, Utility Relocations and Mass Grading Layout
- Minnesota H.F. No. 2480, Ballpark Authorizing Legislation.
- Pedestrian Bridge and 3rd Avenue Removal Layout
- Adjacent Transportation Options Map
- Transportation Mitigation Measures and Best Management Practices

Cc: Council Member Lisa Goodman
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