



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

Date: December 10, 2013
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Subject: **Cooperative Agreement with MNDOT for University Avenue Landscaping Improvements.**

Recommendation:

Authorize proper City officials to execute a cooperative agreement letter with MnDOT to act as the sponsoring unit of government, enabling funds to be transferred from the MNDOT Community Roadside Landscaping Partnership Program to the Columbia Park Neighborhood for landscaping improvements along University Avenue at 36th Avenue NE.

Previous Directives: None

Department Information

Prepared by: Andrew Carlson, Project Manager-Special Service Districts

Approved by: _____
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenter in Committee: Andrew Carlson, Project Manager-Special Service Districts

Reviews: Not Applicable

Financial Impact:

There is no financial impact to the City. The MnDOT Community Roadside Landscaping Partnership Program is a reimbursement program that will award funds to the Columbia Park Neighborhood Group who will purchase the trees and shrubs that will be planted by volunteers along University Avenue at 36th Avenue NE next spring.

Community Impact:

- **Neighborhood Notification:** Not required
- **City Goals:** The City's infrastructure will be well-maintained; streets will be destinations.
- **Comprehensive Plan:** Consistent
- **Zoning Code:** Not Applicable

Supporting Information:

The Minnesota Department of Transportation's Community Roadside Landscaping Partnership Program provides technical and financial assistance to communities that are

interested in landscaping state highway right-of-way. In order to be eligible for funds through the program, applicants must be sponsored by a local unit of government that can execute and honor a cooperative agreement with MnDOT.

MNDOT field crews removed an extensive amount of diseased and undesirable trees and shrubs from the University Avenue/State Highway 47 right-of-way. The trees and shrubs were providing a visual and sound buffer for residents of the Columbia Park neighborhood who live directly adjacent to University Avenue/State Highway 47. The residents inquired about how the area could be replanted to restore a buffer. MNDOT staff directed them to an existing community grant program referred to as the MNDOT Community Roadside Landscaping Partnership Program.

Residents of the Columbia Park neighborhood support the planting and have been involved in the planning process. The planting is scheduled for installation during the spring of 2014 and will occur with assistance from residents of the Columbia Park neighborhood as well as a crew from the Sentence to Serve (STS) program. The cost for the landscaping materials is not to exceed \$10,000.

Applications for spring planting must be submitted to MNDOT by December 31, 2013.