



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

**Date:** July 26, 2011  
**To:** Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee  
**Subject:** **Van White Memorial Bridge Project Update and Authorization to Bid**

**Recommendation:**

Accept the project cost estimate and authorize City Officials to Bid the Project under a revised construction scenario

**Previous Directives:**

- June 2, 2009 – Authorize City Staff to accept and execute CDBG-R (ARRA) HUD grant award of \$260,000
- August 3, 2005 – Approve receipt of Hennepin County Environmental Response Funds
- July 23, 2004 – Authorize staff to negotiate and enter into an agreement with TKDA for design services
- April 16, 2004 – Authorize execution of a cost participation agreement with Hennepin County and issuance of a Request for Proposal for a design and engineering consultant.
- December 28, 2001 – Approve and appropriation increase of \$10 million in federal funding
- May 18, 2001 – Approve the financing strategy for the project
- July 28, 2000 – Approve the project alignment
- March 24, 2000 – Approve the Near Northside and Bassett Creek Valley Master Plans.

**Prepared by:** Ole Mersinger, Project Engineer 673-3537

**Approved by:**

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

**Presenter:** Ole Mersinger, Project Engineer, TP&E  
Jack Yuzna, Principal Professional Engineer, TP&E

**Reviews**

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Approval ____	Date _____
Civil Rights Approval	Approval ____	Date _____
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Approval ____	Date _____

**Financial Impact**

No financial impact

**Community Impact**

Neighborhood Notification: Community involvement has been ongoing as part of CPED redevelopment meetings.

City Goals: The project improves neighborhood connectivity

**Background/Supporting Information**

The Van White Memorial Bridge Project was conceived as part of the Basset Creek Valley Master Plan to provide access to isolated areas of the City. The Van White Bridge Project will provide direct Interstate Highway access from the Heritage Park redevelopment and surrounding areas. In July 2000 the City Council approved the north – south alignment of this project. Funding for the project was secured from external sources the following years and in 2004 a design consultant for the project was selected. Attachment 1 illustrates the project layout which consists of a bridge over Basset Creek; two post-tensioned box girder bridges over the BNSF railroad tracks; and associated road work between I-394 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South.

A significant amount of the project funding spent to date has been on the right-of-way acquisition and the soil environmental and surcharge work. In December, staff reviewed the available project funding against the construction estimate and estimated associated construction management. It was determined that if the original project scope was bid a funding shortfall would be realized. To address this funding shortfall, a phased construction scenario was developed which would allow for the construction of the project within the available project budget. The revised project scope will consist of all roadway and bridge elements with the exception of the piers and superstructure of the south-bound post-tensioned box girder bridge. The easterly (or northbound) bridge will be constructed and the approach roadway will be realigned to allow for two-way traffic on the bridge. The bridge also has a non-motorized trail which will be retained for those users as presented on Attachment 2. This layout presents those elements in Phase 1 of the Van White Memorial Bridge Project. Phase 2 will consist of those bridge elements required to complete the project as illustrated in Attachment 1 and will be constructed at a date when funding is available.

The piers and superstructure for the south-bound bridge will be retained in the project bid documents and bid as “add alternatives”. If the bids are received within the available funding, the project will be constructed in its entirety and there will not be a Phase 2 project.

MNDOT requested in Spring 2011 that the Project Memorandum be re-evaluated due to the length of time that has elapsed since approval of the Project Memorandum. This re-evaluation is completed and will be submitted to MNDOT for approval when state offices reopen.

Future resources to support the complete build-out of the bridge are envisioned to be provided by future federal, state and regional TOD grants; SW LRT development mitigation resources; and TIF funding. Additional requests for federal and state public infrastructure bonding should be programmed. Strategic collaboration efforts among stakeholders, including the adjacent community, will be critical in directing momentum to implement Phase 2 construction.

## Funding

The bridge and roadway project budget consists of funding from multiple sources as outlined below:

Federal (Federal Highway)	\$11.3M
Hennepin County	\$ 7.9M
Minneapolis Net Debt Bonds	\$ 1.2M
Minneapolis Storm/Sanitary Sewer Revenue	\$ 0.5M
Minneapolis Public Housing Authority	\$ 0.1M
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$21.0M</b>

To date, the project has \$11.9M available for bridge construction. In addition, there is \$0.8M remaining for the environmental cleanup of specific parcels associated with the project.

The project also received a \$260,000 grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). However, the money was received through the Department of Housing and Urban Development which has labor requirements which are in conflict of the Federal Highway funding. In order retain eligibility for the Federal Highway funds, the ARRA grant will not be used on this project.

## Schedule

CPED has informed Public Works it anticipates that the property title exchange with HCCRA will occur no later than the first week of August. With the recent shut down of State services, it is anticipated that project backlog exists at MNDOT and the time to obtain approval to advertise for bid is unknown. In a typical situation, it is anticipated approval to advertise for bid would be obtained by the end of August, bids would be opened in early October, and Council approval to enter into a contract with the low bidder would be obtained in December. In this scenario, construction would begin no later than May 2012 with work being substantially completed and the roadway open by Summer 2013.

Attachments: Van White Bridge Project – Attachment 1  
Van White Bridge Project (Phase 1) – Attachment 2

Cc: CM Don Samuels  
CM Barb Johnson  
Darrell Washington, CPED  
Don Elwood, TPE  
Jack Yuzna, TPE