



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

Date: December 8, 2009

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

Subject: **Layout Approval for the RiverLake Greenway (Phase 3) project from I-35W to West River Parkway**

Recommendation:

Approve layout for the RiverLake Greenway (Phase 3) Project from I-35W to West River Parkway.

Previous Directives:

- April 3, 2007; Council Action authorizing the proper City Officers to submit pedestrian and bicycle projects to the Transit for Livable Communities for the first round of Non-motorized Transit Pilot Program funding.
- October 5, 2007; Resolution 2007R-512, Appoint Commissioner of Transportation as agent of the City of Minneapolis and enter into an agreement to accept grants for the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program.
- December 12, 2007; Resolution 2007R-645, Project was adopted into the 2008-2012 Capital Program.
- December 12, 2007; Resolution 2007R-648, Request that the Board of Estimate and Taxation incur indebtedness, issue and sell bonds.

Prepared by: Donald Pflaum, Transportation Planner 673-2129

Approved by:

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

Presenters: Donald Pflaum, Transportation Planning and Engineering

Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Approval	NA	Date
Civil Rights Affirmative Action Plan	Approval	NA	Date
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Approval	NA	Date

Financial Impact

Action is within current department budget

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: All 4 project area neighborhoods have been notified

City Goals: CONNECTED COMMUNITIES: Integrated, multimodal transportation choices border to border.

Comprehensive Plan: Project consistent with comprehensive plan and bicycle plan

Zoning Code: NA

Background Information

The RiverLake Greenway is a community driven bikeway/walkway project that will connect the City's Chain of Lakes to the Mississippi River. As shown on the project map, (Attachment #1), Phase 3 of the RiverLake Greenway, is located midway between the Midtown Greenway and Minnehaha Parkway Trails and runs between I-35W to West River Parkway. It passes through the Bryant, Bancroft, Standish-Ericsson, and Longfellow Neighborhoods. A detailed layout is provided as Attachment #1.

Phase I (from Lyndale Avenue S to I-35W) was completed in 2002. Phase II (from Lake Harriet to Lyndale Avenue S) was completed in 2003. Phase IV is a Pedestrian/Bikeway Bridge that will span I-35W and complete the connection of Phase II & Phase III.

Project Coordination

In 2007 the City of Minneapolis in collaboration with the Bryant, Bancroft, Standish Ericsson, and Longfellow Neighborhoods created a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) made up of representatives from each of the respective neighborhoods. The CAC has been meeting on a regular basis to consider various project design elements and have been reporting back to their neighborhoods. The CAC hosted a public open house in February 2009 where over 100 people attended and provided feedback. The CAC input and public input were valuable in the preparation of the layout.

In addition to the four neighborhoods, Hennepin County, MnDOT, Metro Transit, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), and Transit for Livable Communities have been working with the city to complete the project design.

Funding

In 2006 the City of Minneapolis sought and received \$1,000,000 in federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds; and in 2007, the City of Minneapolis sought and received \$400,000 dollars in federal aid funds from the Non-motorized Transit Pilot (NTP) program for RiverLake Greenway project. \$630,000 in net debt bonds has been secured for this project. The project as presented is currently within budget.

Project Details

The project consists of three major design elements (see Attachment #2):

1. A bicycle boulevard along East 40th Street (between I-35 and Nokomis Avenue)
2. Bicycle lanes along East 42nd Street (between Nokomis Avenue and Minnehaha Avenue)
3. Shared Use Pavement Markings (between Minnehaha Avenue and West River Parkway). There will be a short bicycle boulevard connection from East 40th Street to the 38th Street Hiawatha LRT Station via 30th Avenue South.

A bicycle boulevard fact sheet (Attachment #3) and a Shared Use Pavement Marking Description fact sheet (Attachment #4) from the Draft Minneapolis Bicycle Manual have also been attached for your reference.

This project will install the first bicycle boulevard within the city. A bicycle boulevard is an enhanced local street that gives priority to bicycles. Bicycle boulevards typically run parallel to minor arterial or collector roadways and generally serve bicyclists who are not comfortable riding on busy streets. Bicycle boulevards usually allow motorists but often include traffic calming treatments such as diverters, bump-outs, and speed humps to discourage cut-through motor vehicle trips. In some cases speed limits are reduced or there is additional traffic enforcement. Bicycle boulevards include information and wayfinding signage in addition to special pavement markings. Special attention is also given to intersections to limit bicycle delay and to create free-flow conditions for bicycles whenever possible.

Schedule

This project is scheduled for construction in 2010 with bidding expected to occur in early 2010. Project plan sets have been prepared and the project memorandum has also been drafted for MnDOT review. The project is expected to be complete by October 2010.

Attachments

Attachment #1 – Detailed Project Layout

Attachment #2 – Project Description and Map

Attachment #3 – Draft Minneapolis Bicycle Manual: Bicycle Boulevard Description

Attachment #4 – Draft Minneapolis Bicycle Manual: Shared Use Pavement Marking Description

Cc: Council Member Colvin Roy, Ward 12
Council Member Glidden, Ward 8
Don Elwood, Transportation Planning and Engineering
Jon Wertjes, Traffic and Parking Services
Greg Schroeder, Transportation Planning and Engineering
Jack Yuzna, Transportation Planning and Engineering