



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

**Date:** April 22, 2008

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

**Subject:** **Access Minneapolis: Design Guidelines for Streets and Sidewalks**

**Recommendation:**

Receive and File Final Design Guidelines for Streets and Sidewalks

**Previous Directives:**

- April 2, 2004 Resolution 2004R-139 – Appropriated \$300,000 for citywide transportation planning
- June 8, 2004 – TPW received & filed study goals and timelines
- November 5, 2004 – Authorized the issuance of a Request for Proposals to solicit consultant proposals for the Transportation Action Plan
- November 5, 2004 – Authorized entering into interagency agreements with Hennepin county and Metropolitan Council regarding funding participation
- March 18, 2005 – Approved consultant selection and authorized execution of contract
- March 18, 2005 – Authorized entering into interagency agreement with Mn/DOT regarding funding participation
- July 1, 2005 – Appointed Project Steering Committee
- March 10, 2006 – Authorized amendment to consultant contract to complete a Streetcar Feasibility Study
- November 3, 2006 – Authorized amendment to consultant contract to complete additional traffic analysis and public outreach
- December 22, 2006 – Approved contract extension with three partner agencies for funding reimbursement to 12/31/2007
- March 20, 2007 – TPW received and filed draft Downtown Action Plan
- April 13, 2007 – Resolution 2007R-187 appropriated \$247,000 to Action Plan
- May 15, 2007 – TPW approval of the consultant contract extension and budget
- June 29, 2007 – Council approval of Downtown Action Plan
- September 25, 2007 – TPW received and filed draft Citywide Action Plan and draft Streetcar Feasibility Study and authorized release of RFP for consultant assistance in developing design guidelines for the reconstruction of existing streets that may have streetcar service in the future.
- January 22, 2008 – TPW received and filed final Streetcar Feasibility Study

**Prepared by:** Charleen Zimmer (673- 3166) and Jon Wertjes (673-2614)

**Approved by:**

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

**Presenters:** Charleen Zimmer, Project Manager

## 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 (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 requires an appropriation increase to the Operating 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 – Nine public meetings were held in October, 2007 in various locations around the city. A news release announcing the meetings was sent to all general and neighborhood publications; email notices were sent to Project Steering Committee, neighborhood organizations, city advisory committees, downtown business organizations and interested stakeholders; information posted on city website; notices were included in several Council member newsletters and in Metro Transit's on-bus "TakeOut" newsletter.
- City Goals – meets the goals of:
  - Connected Communities
    - Integrated, multimodal transportation choices border-to-border
    - Walkable, bikeable
  - Enriched Environment
    - Energy into renewable and alternative energy
    - Fully implement the City's Sustainable Work Plan
- Comprehensive Plan – implements the transportation polices set forth in the city's comprehensive plan

### Background/Supporting Information:

The Access Minneapolis – 10 Year Transportation Action is documented in four components: a) Downtown Action Plan, b) Citywide Action Plan, c) Design Guidelines, and d) Streetcar Feasibility Study.

The Downtown Action Plan was approved by City Council on June 29, 2007 and implementation is underway on several plan elements. The final Streetcar Feasibility Study was presented to the Transportation and Public Works Committee as a Receive and File item on January 22, 2008.

The draft Citywide Action Plan was presented to the Transportation and Public Works Committee as a Receive & File item on September 25, 2007. Nine public meetings were held in October 2007. Approximately 200 people attended those meetings, providing both verbal and written feedback on the project. A Project Steering Committee appointed by the City Council has met and discussed these plans for approximately two years. The Citywide Action Plan is being modified based on comments received.

The Design Guidelines for Streets and Sidewalks will be presented and summarized to the Transportation and Public Works Committee as a Receive and File item. The design guidelines have been discussed at length with partner agencies, the Project Management Team and the Project Steering Committee over the past two years. The final Design Guidelines report is posted on the Minneapolis website at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/trans-plan/> under the project documents section.

There are several other initiatives underway that will be incorporated into the design guidelines as they are completed. These include:

- Street Lighting Policy
- Street Furniture Guidelines
- Tree Planting and Streetscaping Guidelines
- Pedestrian Facility Guidelines (part of Pedestrian Master Plan)
- Bicycle Facility Guidelines (part of Bicycle Master Plan)

This document will be treated as a “living document” and will be added to and revised as new information is developed, new best practices emerge and the design guidance is applied to real-world projects. The document is intended to be used by city staff charged with planning and designing street and sidewalk improvements. The guidelines will help:

- Achieve a better balance among transportation modes, giving greater priority to walking bicycling and transit
- Achieve a better interface between streets and adjacent land uses
- Incorporate trees and landscaping as an essential part of the public infrastructure to achieve the environmental benefits
- Better manage stormwater through the reduction of impervious surface
- Enhance the built urban form of Minneapolis and create a more walkable city by building streets that have a more human scale
- Provide a more consistent basis for requested state-aid variances and general guidance for common conditions under which variances may be appropriate
- Bring together the city’s design guidance into a common resource resulting in greater consistency of design, greater sharing of knowledge among staff, and a more efficient use of staff time during the project development process.