



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

**Date:** October 11, 2011

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

**Subject:** **4<sup>th</sup> Street / I35W On Ramp and Auxiliary Lane Project, Municipal Consent Request and Public Hearing.**

**Recommendation:**

Accept the attached request from Hennepin County for Municipal (City of Minneapolis) Consent and set a Public Hearing for November 15, 2011.

**Previous Directives:**

September 27, 2011: Authorize Cooperative Agreement with Hennepin County for City project participation and authorize adjustments to capital appropriations to fund the project.

**Prepared by:** Bill Fellows, P.E., Life Cycle Project Manager, 673-5661  
Don Elwood, P.E. Transportation Planning & Engineering 673- 3622

**Approved by:**

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

**Presenters:** Bill Fellows, P.E., Transportation Planning & Engineering

**Reviews**

Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval NA Date \_\_\_\_\_

Civil Rights Approval Approval NA Date \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Review Group (PRG): Approval NA\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial Impact**

Action is within current department budget

**Community Impact:**

City Goals:

- Neighborhood Notification: The project team has provided a project overview to and solicited input from stakeholders, including the affected neighborhoods. One public Open House was conducted in August, 2011 and additional outreach is planned.
- A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME: the city's infrastructure will be well-maintained; people will feel safe in the city.
- CONNECTED COMMUNITIES: Connected network of Transportation Options.
- Comprehensive Plan: The Comprehensive Plan is being met.
- Zoning Code: Not Applicable

## **Background/Supporting Information**

MnDOT, Hennepin County, and the City of Minneapolis are cooperating on a project to build a new entrance ramp to northbound Interstate 35W at Fourth Street South, as well as an auxiliary lane on northbound 35W from University Avenue SE to Stinson Boulevard. The project will reduce congestion in an area with a high concentration of jobs. It will also create a more direct route from downtown Minneapolis to northbound 35W. The total project cost: estimated to be \$13.5 million.

The ramp would enter mainline I-35W into an auxiliary lane, accomplished by reducing the Trunk Highway 55 entrance to northbound I-35W from two lanes to one, allowing the other lane to be used by traffic from the new northbound I-35W entrance ramp from 4th Street South. The project also includes adding an auxiliary lane north of 4th St SE to the Johnson Street exit. The project will involve several agencies including the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Hennepin County, Federal Highway Administration, Metropolitan Council, Metro Transit, and the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit project office.

Hennepin County has submitted to the City the layout with a letter requesting City approval (attached). The letter includes a good faith cost estimate of the project's cost and the following:

- project purpose
- route location
- short description of the proposed design of the highway
- additional supporting data

The next steps in the Municipal Consent process are as follows:

1. City schedules and holds public hearing (within 60 days of submittal). City must schedule within 15 days of receiving Hennepin County's request for approval and must give 30 days public notice. The City of Minneapolis Public Works Department is requesting that the Public Hearing be held on November 15, 2011. At that time the project will be presented for public comment.
2. City passes resolution approving / disapproving (within 90 days of public hearing). After 90 days from the date of the public hearing, if the city has not passed a resolution disapproving the layout, the layout is deemed approved.
3. If city disapproves, Hennepin County decides whether to:
  - a. Meet city's condition(s), assuming city approved with conditions: Hennepin County writes city a letter indicating this and attaches revised layout with change(s). This ends the MC process.
  - b. Go to the appeal process.
  - c. Stop the project (do not build the project, or scale project down so that municipal consent is no longer required).
4. If in the final plan Hennepin County alters access, capacity or right-of-way, Hennepin County must re-submit changed portion of plan for city's approval. (The city is not required to hold another public hearing and has 60 days to approve or disapprove).

Attached: Hennepin County Layout Submittal

Cc: Council Member Reich, Ward 1  
Council Member Gordon, Ward 2  
Council Member Hofstede, Ward 3  
Council Member Goodman, Ward 7  
Heidi Hamilton, Public Works  
Don Elwood, Transportation Planning and Engineering  
Jon Wertjes, Traffic & Parking Services  
Pam Fischer, Finance  
Bill Schroeder, Finance