

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Randy Backous (arrived at 5:14 p.m.)
Councilmember Mark Kuzma
Mayor Sarah Strommen (Alternate)

Member Absent: Councilmember David Elvig

Also Present: City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
Finance Director Diana Lund
Fire Chief Dean Kapler
Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood
Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
Civil Engineer II Leonard Linton
City Engineer Bruce Westby
Human Resources Manager Colleen Lasher
City Clerk Jo Ann Thieling
Assistant to the City Administrator Patrick Brama
Councilmember John LeTourneau
Councilmember Chris Riley

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Kuzma called the regular meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 5:06 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

There was none.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as revised to consider a new item under Staff Report prior to Item 4.

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

6.02: Memorandum of Understanding with Anoka County

City Administrator Ulrich stated Anoka County is requesting the City and Anoka County to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to make a \$10 million grant application to help

finance the interchange at Armstrong Boulevard and Highway 10. The MOU would commit Anoka County and Ramsey to assume responsibility to fund the shortfall with the portion paid by Anoka County not to exceed \$10 million. City Administrator Ulrich indicated the City's accounting of funds spent so far towards this \$35 million project equaled \$7 million including the Armstrong interchange, Sunwood Drive realignment, property acquisitions, Riverdale Drive Extension, and Armstrong Boulevard improvements. He recommended that expenditure be identified in the City's resolution and indicated this would be considered by the Council at its meeting next week.

Acting Chairperson Kuzma asked what would the City's exposure be if the grant was not awarded.

City Administrator Ulrich stated anticipated funding was \$17 million from the State, \$17 million from federal, and the balance paid by Anoka County and Ramsey. The City's portion was anticipated to be up to \$5 million and the City has already contributed in excess of that amount. He recommended drawing the line at \$10 million, meaning the City would need to come up with \$3 million for this project.

Councilmember Riley stated he would like the issue of medians addressed.

Civil Engineer II Linton described the location of medians and businesses.

Chairperson Backous arrived at 5:14 p.m.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Chairperson Backous, to approve the minutes from the March 19, 2013 Public Works Meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Backous, Councilmembers Kuzma and Strommen. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember David Elvig.

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Cost Estimate for Pedestrian Crosswalk at Alpine Drive and Zirconium Street

Public Works Superintendent Riemer noted this is the third time this issue has been addressed by the Public Works Committee. He displayed the subject site and past consideration of a pedestrian crossing at Alpine Drive and Zirconium Street. Public Works Superintendent Riemer proposed a different scenario for the crosswalk and trail leading to the main park entrance, suggesting a crosswalk be installed at the point 200 feet west of Zirconium Street and connected by a ten-foot crushed aggregate trail. Public Works Superintendent Riemer explained that once pedestrians crossed the road to the south side of Alpine Drive, they would take a ten-foot crushed aggregate trail east to the main entrance that would connect to the park's internal trail system. He explained that this would be a limited use trail, which in reality is only serving one neighborhood to the north, Alpine Estates. Secondly, Public Works has a stockpile of reclaimed

asphalt that would be suitable for this project. He described the components of the proposed crosswalk and warning signs. Public Works Superintendent Riemer presented the cost estimate of \$15,500 and recommendation to install standard pedestrian crosswalk signage and striping, with connecting trails to provide access to Alpine Park for residents of Alpine Estates. He advised that flashing crosswalk signs cost about \$5,000 and the type used by the City of Anoka cost \$28,000, noting this project would not warrant that level of expense.

Chairperson Backous asked about the elevation of the crosswalk at Alpine Drive and towards the parking lot.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer indicated it is a hill and would cost \$38,000 to install concrete steps; however, that would not comply with ADA requirements. He suggested if it is seen that people are cutting across, steps could be considered in the future.

Chairperson Backous asked about the cost for green treated timber steps.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated that is an option in the area that is not as steep, towards the middle of the trail.

Chairperson Backous asked about a more gradual slope where topography would allow.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated he thinks people will more than likely cut across the street than to travel 200 feet in the other direction to use the crosswalk.

Chairperson Backous raised the option of a trail that sloped to the west, which may encourage pedestrians to stay on the trail and use the crosswalk.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated this is difficult because the project results in putting in a \$15,000 crosswalk and residents will likely cross at the intersection.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if flashing lights are required.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated the flashing lights are not needed.

Mayor Strommen noted the funding is from Public Works.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer described the material the City has on hand for this project and indicated the hard costs are for the curb cuts.

Chairperson Backous asked staff to explore making a gradual cut path that could pass ADA requirements (5% grade). He felt with the proposed design, pedestrians will just cut across the street.

Mayor Strommen agreed a gradual cut path was an option worth exploring.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood asked about the angle westerly, not toward the playground, where the grade can be long enough and laid in with Class V. Then the pedestrian ramp at the entrance to Alpine Park can be moved west of the shelter where there is not as much traffic.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated staff will shoot the elevation grades to see if that is a viable option.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated bicyclists may also enjoy using a gradual trail.

Councilmember Riley noted it makes the City look silly to put a crosswalk in a location where people would not use it, or where residents requested it to be located.

The consensus of the Public Works Committee was to ask staff to determine elevations as discussed and whether it would be an option to create a more gradual pathway.

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT – CONTINUED

6.01: Review of 2012-2013 Winter Maintenance Activities

Public Works Superintendent Riemer reported on the Public Work's scale of operation, snow removal routes, 2012-2013 winter maintenance activities, and types of equipment used for snowplowing. He reviewed the types of comments and complaints most commonly received and how they are addressed. Public Works Superintendent Riemer advised of changes expected for 2013-2014 including salt cost, installing AVL equipment in large plow equipment, changing policy to make townhome associations responsible for their sidewalks, and to address resident requests to not leave windrows across driveways when plowing trails.

Chairperson Backous asked about the cost for the private weather service subscription.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer estimated \$800 to \$1,200 and advised it is worth the cost, noting it is also used during summer storms.

Chairperson Backous asked why the City cannot use the AVL system to give live web updates on plowing.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated there is potential the system would crash if too many logged on.

Chairperson Backous stated he would like to get more information about that issue, noting the City may need a slight increase in bandwidth, and he thinks offering live updates would be a huge benefit to residents. Chairperson Backous asked how long Ramsey has had eight routes.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated it has been a while and staff would like to add a truck in 2015 because the City's equipment was getting to the limit. He noted Anoka has 65

miles of road and Ramsey has 174 miles of road, yet both have the same number of trucks. In addition, the City has no backup if something breaks down.

Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood noted it is also an issue of staffing.

Chairperson Backous asked Public Works Superintendent Riemer to make this same presentation at an upcoming Council meeting to keep residents informed. He extended the City's appreciation to the Public Works staff.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Mayor Strommen to adjourn the Public Works Committee meeting.

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Riemer
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Carla Wirth
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.