

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 18, 2018, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Chris Riley
 Councilmember Jill Johns
 Councilmember Mark Kuzma

Also Present: Public Works Superintendent Grant Riemer
 City Engineer Bruce Westby
 Civil Engineer IV Leonard Linton
 City Administrator Kurt Ulrich

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Riley called the regular meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 5:45 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

There was none.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Kuzma and Johns. Voting No: None.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve March 20, 2018, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting Minutes dated March 20, 2018

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Johns and Kuzma. Voting No: None.

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Using Soil from COR Infiltration Basin Project as Fill in Other Areas of the COR

Civil Engineer IV Linton stated that preparation of plans for the COR Infiltration Basin Improvement was approved by the City Council on April 9, 2018 and noted that the project will generate approximately 35,000 cubic yards of soil that needs to be exported. He reported that The COR was master planned as Ramsey Town Center and the developer completed grading on the sites generally east of Rhinestone Street and north of East Ramsey Parkways before going out of business and walking away from the project. He noted that there have been several analyses of the site to determine the amount of fill required to bring the site to grade and ready for construction. He noted that the general number is 200,000 cubic yards of fill will be required to bring the pads up to grade and ready for building.

Civil Engineer IV Linton stated that it would be feasible to issue a contract for the following work on select sites to use the excess fill from the COR Infiltration Basin Improvement Project:

1. Install silt fence.
2. Strip and stockpile the existing topsoil.
3. Spread the fill material in uniform lifts and compact.
4. Have a geotechnical engineer perform compaction tests and document the location and results of the tests.
5. Replace the topsoil.
6. Establish vegetation.

Civil Engineer IV Linton stated that the area south of Sunwood Drive and east of Zeolite Street was identified as a potential site for the excess fill and will take approximately 6,000 cubic yards. He stated that bringing the site to grade will address a concern raised by the Minnesota Department of Health about the area around the municipal well being depressed and holding water and will also make the site more marketable. He stated that the remainder of the fill will be placed in another area of the COR that needs fill using the same steps. He identified other areas which could include the property between Casey's and the infiltration basin, the future park site, and the regional pond site. He stated that it would be feasible to add this work to the COR Infiltration Basin Improvement Project and the funding sources for each line item would be provided to finance in advance, so each pay estimate would draw from the correct fund. He recommended amending the plans for the COR Infiltration Basin Improvements, Improvement Project #18-09, to include placing the fill in a controlled and documented manner on selected sites in the COR.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if the fill could be sold to Affinity.

Civil Engineer IV Linton stated that Affinity will be ready for fill prior to the City having the fill available and therefore that timing would not align.

Motion by Councilmember Kuzma, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to recommend that the City Council orders amending the plans for The COR Infiltration Basin Improvements,

Improvement Project #18-09, to include placing the excess fill in a controlled manner on selected sites in The COR.

Further discussion: Chairperson Riley stated that he did not see a cost estimate for this work. City Engineer Westby provided additional details, noting that costs would primarily be associated with moving the soil, stripping and reapplying existing topsoil, and seeding. He stated that this could be added as an alternate bid if desired. Councilmember Johns noted that the costs would be needed anyway so this work should be included with the project.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Kuzma and Johns. Voting No: None.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to recess the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Johns and Kuzma. Voting No: None.

The meeting reconvened to Open Session at 5:58 p.m.

5.02: Consider Recommendation to City Council Authorizing Speed Study on Bunker Lake Boulevard

City Engineer Westby stated that staff received a request from a developer to reduce the speed limit on Bunker Lake Boulevard/CSAH 116 from 55 mph to 45 mph, on the north side of The COR. He stated that recent development of the “triangle” and “U-shape” parcels in Ramsey Town Center 8th Addition added 26 new single-family homes immediately north of this segment of Bunker Lake Boulevard. He noted that the developer of the “U-shape” parcel, which includes 12 of the 26 single-family lots, feels the posted speed of 55 mph presents an immediate danger to current and future residents of these homes. He noted that the City owns and operates Bunker Lake Boulevard west of Armstrong Boulevard/CSAH 83 and Anoka County owns and operates Bunker Lake Boulevard/CSAH 116 between Armstrong Boulevard/CSAH 83 and the east City limits. He noted that posted speeds are currently 40 mph west of Armstrong Boulevard, 55 between Armstrong Boulevard and Sunfish Lake Boulevard, and 50 mph east of Sunfish Lake Boulevard. He reviewed the Minnesota Statute 169.14 which establishes statutory speed limits on most typical roadways under ideal conditions, noting that all other speed limits are set by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) based upon an engineering and traffic investigation (speed study) in which the follow factors are considered:

- Road type and condition
- Location and type of access points (intersections, entrances, etc.)
- Sufficient length of roadway (1/4 mile minimum)
- Existing traffic control devices (signs, signals, etc.)
- Crash history traffic volume sight distances (curve, hill, etc.)
- Test drive results

City Engineer Westby stated that the most common speed limits observed throughout Minnesota are:

- 10 mph in alleys
- 30 mph on streets in urban districts
- 55 mph on other roads
- 65 mph on expressways
- 65 mph on urban interstate highways
- 70 mph on rural interstate highways

City Engineer Westby stated that if speed limits are not posted, these are to be considered the default speed limits. He noted that local road authorities can determine advisory speeds for local roads and post the roads with advisory speed signs without authorization from the MnDOT Commissioner. He stated that local road authorities can also pass a resolution requesting a speed study investigation by MnDOT. He noted that the local road authority that owns and operates the segment of road to be studied is responsible for submitting the request to MnDOT and based upon the study results, which often take in excess of one year to receive, MnDOT may then authorize the local road authority to post the road with new speed limits. He noted that it is important to state that the study could find that the new speed limit should be greater than the existing speed limit, which is typically contrary to the desired outcome. He noted that staff from various departments discussed the developer's request on April 10th and staff's opinion is that there is no harm in requesting the speed study because the posted speed limit is 55 mph, which is considered the maximum speed limit for this type of road. He noted that staff commented that it would be best from a driver expectation point of view to keep speed limits as uniform as possible on Bunker Lake Boulevard throughout the City limits. He stated that staff therefore recommends specifying the scope of the speed study from Armstrong Boulevard to Sunfish Lake Boulevard, where the speed limit is consistently 55 mph. He stated that because Anoka County owns and operates this segment of Bunker Lake Boulevard, the City would request Anoka County to submit a formal speed study request to MnDOT and Anoka County would then make the decision on whether this request moves forward. He recommended that the Public Works Committee recommend that the City Council authorize to request a Speed Study on Bunker Lake Boulevard/CSAH 116 between Armstrong Boulevard/CSAH 83 and Sunfish Lake Boulevard/CSAH 57. He noted that the City's request would be submitted to Anoka County, who will then consider forwarding the request to the MnDOT Commissioner.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if there is a cost for the study.

City Engineer Westby replied that there is no cost to the City for the study.

Councilmember Johns asked the plan for that section of roadway, specifically if there are plans for a traffic signal in the future at Center Street. She stated that she would rather see the speed reduced over an additional traffic signal.

City Engineer Westby replied that Bunker Lake Boulevard will eventually be reconstructed and that a traffic signal will be added at Center Street, including controlled pedestrian crossings. He stated that the improvements have not been requested by Anoka County yet.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that he would prefer not to change the speed and wait for the traffic signal to drive the study. He stated that the road was there prior to the homes being built and those residents were aware of the situation. He noted that even if the posted speed changes, people will still drive 55 mph.

Chairperson Riley asked if the City is able to request a speed.

City Engineer Westby stated that the City is unable to request a speed. He stated that when the traffic signal is added, a speed study would occur by MnDOT. He noted that the timing for that improvement is not yet known and reviewed some items that would trigger that improvement.

Councilmember Johns noted that this section is an anomaly, as this is the only 55 mph section of Bunker Lake Boulevard, through Andover. She noted that the speed will not go up and if anything could decrease. She stated that the speed could be decreased to match another segment of the roadway that adjoins to that section.

City Engineer Westby stated that the City cannot request a speed, as the speed study process will identify the speed. He stated that staff would like the corridor to be as consistent as possible.

Chairperson Riley stated that while he would like the speed to be consistent, the speed was 55 mph before the homes were built.

Councilmember Johns agreed that makes sense to wait until the reconstruction but noted that there are residents trying to cross the roadway for events and the traffic is moving quickly.

City Engineer Westby stated that the connection of the regional trail along Center Street could also trigger the intersection improvement at Center Street, and therefore that signal could be added before the reconstruction of Bunker Lake Boulevard.

Councilmember Johns asked and received confirmation that pedestrian crossings are accounted for in the study.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Johns, to recommend City Council authorization to request a Speed Study on Bunker Lake Boulevard/CSAH 116 between Armstrong Boulevard/CSAH 83 and Sunfish Lake Boulevard/CSAH 57.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley and Councilmembers Johns. Voting No: Councilmember Kuzma.

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

6.01: Staff Updates on Improvement Projects and Items of Interest

City Engineer Westby stated that a list of projects planned for 2018 by Anoka County and MnDOT were included in the packet and reviewed the timing on the upcoming projects. He

stated that there are four posters in the lobby of City Hall, which the City received from the Anoka Conservation District, and coordinating brochures on different water related topics.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if the work at King's Island has been completed.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that work has been completed.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if the City could have a public event, perhaps a ribbon cutting.

City Engineer Westby stated that he has been working with parks staff in attempt to schedule an event.

Councilmember Kuzma suggested that perhaps it be a joint event with Ramsey and Anoka.

6.02: Review Future Topics Calendar

City Administrator Ulrich stated that the franchise fee impact on debt will be on the Council worksession agenda the following Tuesday along with a reception for the Mayor.

City Engineer Westby stated that the dates are dynamic, noting that some topics have been delayed allowing for recent projects to move forward.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Riemer
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.