

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 17, 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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Riley called the regular meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 5:32 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 June 19, 2018, Meeting Minutes

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated June 19, 2018

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

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Speed Limit Reduction on Quicksilver Street

City Engineer Westby stated that the purpose of the case is to consider a request to reduce the speed limit on Quicksilver Street, south of 167th and north of Elmcrest Park. He noted that staff received a request from the property owner at 16601 Quicksilver Street to reduce the speed limit on Quicksilver Street, south of 167th Avenue and north of Elmcrest Park. This property owner has reported excessive speeds along this segment of Quicksilver Street, and recently experienced damage to their landscaping and mailbox due to vehicles leaving the roadway. He stated that this section of Quicksilver currently has no posted speed limit, but based on its functional classification as a local street and the properties it serves, the street could be posted at 30 mph.

City Engineer Westby stated 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 noted that local road authorities can also pass a resolution requesting a speed study investigation by MnDOT. The local road authority that owns and operates the segment of road to be studied is responsible for submitting the request to MnDOT. He stated that based on the speed study results, which often take in excess of one year to receive, MnDOT may authorize the local road authority to post the road with new speed limits. However, it is important to note 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. In this case, staff would not expect the speed limit to increase, given the functional classification of the road and the properties it serves.

City Engineer Westby stated that staff would not recommend requested a speed study from MnDOT. Based on the functional classification of the road and the properties it serves, staff believes the lowest posted speed MnDOT would authorize would be 30 mph. As such, staff recommends either leaving this segment of Quicksilver Street as is with no posted speed limit, or posting this segment of Quicksilver Street at 30 mph. Staff does not support posting an advisory speed of something less than 30 mph. In any scenario, the Police Department can only enforce a 30-mph speed limit. He noted that it is best to maintain uniform speed limits along roadway corridors where the functional classification does not vary, to meet driver expectation.

City Engineer Westby reviewed the options available to the Committee and stated that staff recommends leaving the segment of Quicksilver Street between 167th Avenue and Elmcrest Park unposted as to the speed limit and to direct staff to place the speed trailer along this street segment when the trailer is available. He noted that staff could also support the option to furnish and install two 30 mph speed limit signs along the segment of Quicksilver Street between 167th and Elmcrest Park, one at each end in the direction of travel, and direct staff to place the speed trail along this street segment when the trailer is available. He stated that he spoke with the resident that submitted the concern and he was supportive of the speed trailer being posted for two weeks to see if that would detour high traveling speeds.

Chairperson Riley stated that it appears that police activity would be pretty easy to enforce as most of the activity would be likely to occur from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. when the park traffic is increased.

Councilmember Johns stated that it would be her assumption that the majority of problem arise during the soccer season and believed that season is wrapping up.

Chairperson Riley asked if the City has posted a sign stating park entrance ahead, please drive slowly.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer replied that this is the longest strip of road leading into a park and therefore there is not another park with a similar sign.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that 30 mph seems high and was unsure that posting the sign would help.

Councilmember Johns stated that she would support the speed trailer but is not sure that the correct data will be provided as the busiest part of the soccer season has concluded.

Chairperson Riley stated that perhaps when the annual meeting with the soccer association occurs, this topic could be discussed.

Councilmember Johns stated that perhaps it is a dual solution, using the speed trailer and also emailing the sports association to remind their teams on the speed.

Councilmember Kuzma also suggested placing an article in the *Ramsey Resident*.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated that public works has ordered two additional flashing speed signs that can be rotated through neighborhoods next year and that could be an option for the spring.

Motion by Councilmember Johns, seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, to leave the segment of Quicksilver Street between 167th Avenue and Elmcrest Park unposted as to the speed limit, to direct staff to place the speed trailer along this street segment when the trailer is available, and to direct staff to reach out to the soccer association with a reminder to watch for speeds.

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

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

6.01: Review Draft City of Ramsey Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan

City Engineer Westby stated that the purpose of this case is to review the City of Ramsey's Draft Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan.

City Engineer Westby stated that Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was enacted on July 26, 1990. Title II of ADA requires the City of Ramsey to meet the following general requirements:

- Must operate their programs so that, when viewed in their entirety, the programs are accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities (28 C.F.R. Sec. 35.150).
- May not refuse to allow a person with a disability to participate in a service, program, or activity simply because the person has a disability (28 C.F.R. Sec. 35.130 (a)).
- Must make reasonable modifications in policies, practices and procedures that deny equal access to individuals with disabilities unless a fundamental alteration in the program would result (28 C.F.R. Sec. 35.130(b) (7)).
- May not provide services or benefits to individuals with disabilities through programs that are separate or different unless the separate or different measures are necessary to ensure that benefits and services are equally effective (28 C.F.R. Sec. 35.130(b)(iv) & (d)).
- Must take appropriate steps to ensure that communications with applicants, participants, and members of the public with disabilities are as effective as communications with others (29 C.F.R. Sec. 35.160(a)).
- Must designate at least one responsible employee to coordinate ADA compliance [28 CFR Sec. 35.107(a)]. This person is often referred to as the "ADA Coordinator." The public entity must provide the ADA coordinator's name, office address, and telephone number to all interested individuals [28 CFR Sec. 35.107(a)].
- Must provide notice of ADA requirements. All public entities, regardless of size, must provide information about the rights and protections of Title II to applicants, participants, beneficiaries, employees, and other interested persons [28 CFR Sec. 35.106]. The notice must include the identification of the employee serving as the ADA coordinator and must provide this information on an ongoing basis [28 CFR Sec. 104.8(a)].
- Must establish a grievance procedure. Public entities must adopt and publish grievance procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints [28 CFR Sec. 35.107(b)]. This requirement provides for a timely resolution of all problems or conflicts related to ADA compliance before they escalate to litigation and/or the federal complaint process.

City Engineer Westby noted that the City must have an adopted ADA Transition Plan before accepting any new Federal funds, therefore this Plan must be adopted by the City Council before any Federal grants can be accepted for any projects. He reviewed the draft Plan with the Committee and requested input from the Committee.

Councilmember Kuzma asked if there is an estimate of cost.

Chairperson Riley agreed that it would be helpful to have an estimate of the cost for these impacts.

City Engineer Westby stated that staff has been completing an inventory and stated that at least 370 pedestrian ramps would need to be replaced, along with segments of trails that would need to be replaced. He stated that a very rough estimate would be well over \$3,000,000 and could range up to \$10,000,000. He noted that this would also impact buildings. He noted that this would be worked into the budget. He stated that the updates would be tied to the trail maintenance policy.

Chairperson Riley asked if this only applies to streets and sidewalks.

City Engineer Westby stated that this would apply to anything within public right-of-way or that allows for public access.

Councilmember Johns asked if private businesses are included.

City Engineer Westby stated that this would only apply to the public elements. It was noted that businesses are responsible themselves for meeting ADA compliance requirements.

Chairperson Riley asked if this is the best template to use.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that this is the best template and is also used by other municipalities. He stated that he recently attended an ADA workshop, which provided good information. He stated that they walked around Central Park in Brooklyn Park and were able to view and discuss the elements that were ADA compliant. He stated that the ADA representatives explained that the best attempt would be to hit the “low hanging fruit” first and then work your way up and do your best to meet the goals, because they do understand that there is an expense to making these changes.

Chairperson Riley asked if the goals are required to be included. He stated that if the goals are not required, then perhaps this adds more trouble than needed.

City Engineer Westby stated that these were the generic goals included in the plan and are similar to those used by other municipalities. He stated that a scheduled plan is required in order to be eligible for Federal grant funds.

Councilmember Johns suggested adding the other elementary school.

Chairperson Riley stated that should not be an issue because it is a new neighborhood and will be a new school. He noted that the City would already be on a schedule for replacement of things within its own plans. He asked if the goals are reasonable for the City.

City Engineer Westby stated that goal could be backed down to 50 percent within 15 years and 75 percent within 20 years.

Councilmember Johns noted that part of the calculation would be to fully determine needs and therefore a lesser goal may be best to start with.

Chairperson Riley asked if the goal could be worded to state that replacement will occur in the natural schedule of replacement.

City Engineer Westby stated that the implementation section addresses that element, explaining that the improvements would occur in conjunction with street replacement projects or as standalone projects; using the example of a “low hanging fruit” project or an area that is causing problems.

Chairperson Riley asked if the goal fits together with the activity of the parks department.

City Engineer Westby stated that he is unsure that the parks plan would get into that level of detail.

Public Works Superintendent Riemer stated that the parks department is working on a replacement plan for the parks and ADA elements would be included in those activities.

Chairperson Riley stated that he is glad the City is doing this. He asked for information on the next steps.

City Engineer Westby asked if the Committee would like staff to attempt to gain input from the public prior to bringing this forward to the Council for adoption. He stated that staff would like to bring this forward to the Council in August as the City has one grant application out currently. He stated that another option would be to adopt the draft and then there could be options for public input in the future.

Councilmember Johns stated that while she likes to involve the public, most of the document is State statute and there is not much room for changes to be made at this time.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that he would support bringing the draft forward to the Council for adoption and if changes need to be made in the future, that could be done. He noted that it would be good to alert the public in the future to the potential cost for these improvements.

It was the consensus of the Committee to bring the document forward to the Council at the August 6th meeting to consider to adoption.

City Engineer Westby stated that once adopted, the plan could be placed on the website with a summary of how the City plans to implement and maintain the plan.

Chairperson Riley encouraged staff to make it clear to the public that this is a fluid plan and changes can be made based on public input.

6.02: Review Future Topics Calendar

City Engineer Westby reviewed the future topics calendar.

6.03: Staff Updates on Improvement Projects and Items of Interest

City Engineer Westby stated that a list of improvement projects and updates were included in the case and provided a brief summary. He provided an update on The COR regional infiltration basin project. He noted that staff continues to negotiate with PSD to obtain the necessary land for the basin, using a land swap method as directed by Council. He stated that staff will talk to the LRRWMO later this week in attempt to obtain an extension for the project.

City Engineer Westby stated that staff has been taking pavement cores on completed street reconstruction projects to ensure that sufficient pavement was placed per plan. He stated that it may be more beneficial to use ground penetrating radar (GPR) as that would provide a full picture of the pavement section. He stated that the cost would be slightly higher, but using GPR provides a fuller set of data as readings are taken every foot along the street, and would include the aggregate base thickness.

Councilmember Kuzma asked how the current process is working and whether the samples from the cores are providing accurate results.

City Engineer Westby confirmed that the pavement cores have matched what they are supposed to be for the newly built roads.

Chairperson Riley stated that if the cost is not much more, he would like to use the GPR to ensure that the roads are being built to the City standards.

Councilmember Johns agreed that it would be helpful to have the additional data.

Councilmember Kuzma stated that his concern would be that a few hundred dollars would add up over a season. He stated that it would be great to have the data, but he would just be concerned with the additional cost that could accumulate.

It was the consensus of the Committee to use the GPR to review the roadway following reconstruction.

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 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Riemer
Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.