

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Chris Riley
 Councilmember Debra Musgrove
 Councilmember Matt Woestehoff

Also Present: City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Bruce Westby
 Parks Superintendent/Interim Assistant Public Works Director Mark
 Riverblood
 Assistant City Engineer Joe Feriancek

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Riley called the regular meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

There was none.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Woestehoff and Musgrove.
Voting No: None.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve August 22, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting Minutes dated August 22, 2022

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Riley, Councilmembers Woestehoff and Musgrove.
Voting No: None.

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

None.

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

6.01: Receive Updates on Improvement Projects, Studies, and Items of Interest

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby provided updates on current and proposed City, County and MnDOT improvement projects, studies, and other items of interest.

Chairperson Riley asked and received confirmation that there has been discussion with the youth sports associations and related to events in attempt to avoid conflicts with the Central Park parking lot project.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek provided additional details on the status of road improvement projects.

Councilmember Musgrove noted that she would be interested in an entrance sign that identifies Ramsey as part of the gateway project, both coming from Anoka and Elk River.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby stated that there are City limit signs for Ramsey along Highway 10 with the population.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she would be interested in larger highway signs, similar to what exists for Elk River on Highway 10.

Chairperson Riley agreed that this would be a good time to make these wants known as the project continues to move forward.

Councilmember Woestehoff noted a bridge in Dayton that has City of Dayton etched into the bridge over the highway and stated that would be nice to incorporate as well.

Chairperson Riley stated that Anoka made that request for their project and the cost to do so was made known at that time, noting that Ramsey then decided to move forward with the Armstrong interchange design.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby replied that there will be an upcoming discussion about bridge and other aesthetic elements for the Ramsey Gateway Improvements and that could be part of the discussion.

Parks Superintendent/Interim Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided additional information on the desire for blue highway wayfinding signs for businesses and agreed that signage should be a part of the gateway discussion. He noted that those wayfinding signs could better identify businesses before the appropriate exits.

Parks Superintendent/Interim Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood reviewed information on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), the damage EAB does to trees, and provided photographic examples. He noted that although some trees can, and will be treated, most of the diseased trees would be removed. He provided details on replanting and the funds available through the community forestry fund. He reviewed the benefits provided by boulevard trees, which he believes add tremendous value. He stated that in January, the Committee agreed that it would add value to plant boulevard trees along the barren side of Sunwood Drive and directed staff to prepare an RFP that separated the costs of City owned and privately owned properties. He noted that he has not yet completed development of the RFP but still believes he could meet the timing desired to plant in spring of 2023. He noted that no action is necessary for the EAB update and advised that will continue to be an issue in the community. He confirmed the education to private property owners is a part of the City's EAB policy and plan.

Councilmember Woestehoff agreed that the more EAB is talked about, the better the results will be as there is interest in the topic by the public. He stated that perhaps staff could reach out to the known tree contractors that frequently work in Ramsey to provide educational material too in attempt to stop the spread.

Parks Superintendent/Interim Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood replied that most tree contractors should be aware of EAB and how to handle that issue but agreed it could be helpful for staff to spread that education as well.

Councilmember Woestehoff noted that the City website provides locations for ash tree disposal locations and asked if licensed contractors could also be listed.

Parks Superintendent/Interim Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood replied that the City tends to shy away from advertising for businesses but noted that he will follow up to determine if that would be a possibility.

Chairperson Riley stated that perhaps there could be an article in the *Ramsey Resident* to better educate residents as well.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if the City would still address the boulevard trees on the City property, even if there is not a response from the private property owner.

Parks Superintendent/Interim Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that the RFP will be clearly issued with part A and part B, which would separate the City and privately-owned segments. He noted that when private properties develop, they are required to plant the boulevard trees and complete the streetscaping. He was hopeful that the developer owning the private property would see the opportunity for cost-savings to join in on this project while also improving the aesthetics of their property.

Chairperson Riley asked if there would be benefit for the City to complete the boulevard tree planting and assess that cost.

Parks Superintendent/Interim Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood replied that while that could be done, it would most likely be very unpopular.

Chairperson Riley asked if there would be benefit to the assessment method for the developer.

Parks Superintendent/Interim Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood confirmed that could be a more attractive option for a developer. He stated that TIF funding could also be an option.

The Committee confirmed that both the EAB and boulevard trees should be added to the list for continued updates.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek provided an update on the pavement management program and Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He confirmed that this has been updated with all of the needed improvements. He stated that this is heavy loaded in the first years with seven to nine miles per year whereas years further out would average about five miles per year. He noted that this is a goal to spend the bond and ARPA funds by 2025. He also reviewed details on the other funding sources for projects.

Chairperson Riley stated that if the first three years that involve the additional funding are excluded, the plan would not seem that front loaded and asked the limiting factor that does not allow even more front loading.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that 2023 is not front loaded. He reviewed the projects proposed for 2023, noting that the limiting factor for 2023 is the ability for staff to prepare the plans. He stated that it will be a very busy winter for staff to prepare the plans for those identified projects in time for bidding by Spring.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if Chairperson Riley would suggest moving \$1,000,000 from 2027 to 2026.

Chairperson Riley replied that would be a good answer and was just asking what the limiting factor would be. He understood the burden on City staff and asked if that is something that could be contracted out.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that they would have the ability to contract out in order to do even more in the first few years. He provided an overview of the different projects proposed for 2023 and 2024. He stated that it would not be realistic for staff to develop more plans without additional assistance.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby reviewed other parts of projects Engineering staff are involved with above plan development. He stated that construction inspection has not yet been addressed, noting that some project inspection work would most likely need to be contracted out. He commented that it is hard for inspection staff to manage their current work load.

Chairperson Riley commented that the more that can be done earlier the better, but also acknowledged the capacity of City staff.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that the City has been doing an average of three miles per year in road improvement projects. She stated that in 2023 they will be doing seven miles, which is more than double and incorporates projects that were moved up. She believed that the first year will help the City understand the additional assistance that would be needed going forward for designing and constructing road projects. She stated that although she would like to see more projects done, she appreciates the work that has been done and that the work would be doubled in the first year. She stated that in 2024, the Highway 10 roads are included and asked the burden that would be put on City staff for those projects.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby reviewed the different entities that will be involved in the Ramsey Gateway Highway 10 Improvements inspections noting that it would be a combination of staff from Bolton & Menk, Anoka County, MnDOT, and the City.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if the Committee could receive a copy of the map and presentation in order to further digest this information.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek noted the plan is not officially approved yet but confirmed that he could send the presentation to the members of the Committee.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked the next steps in the process.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby replied that this is part of the CIP and engineering just provided this list of projects to the Finance Director. He noted that this will be part of the overall CIP presentation which will occur at a Council worksession towards the end of October or beginning of November.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby noted an upcoming open house meeting for Elk River's Highway 10 corridor study. He stated that the City has provided comments on the study as a partner in the PMT process. He clarified that this study that will lead to future studies to define specific intersection improvements rather than specific projects.

6.02: Review Future Topics Calendar

Chairperson Riley asked for details on the water problem that Andover recently experienced and whether that is something that Ramsey could learn.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby stated that there was an issue with loss of pressure but is not aware of specifics at this time. He noted that staff continues to communicate with Andover staff.

Chairperson Riley asked that the item be added to the future topics calendar.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby replied that Ramsey monitors its pressure systems constantly and are alerted instantly if there is a significant drop in pressure.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that the Andover City Administrator did mention that topic and noted that the city already introduced countermeasures in order to avoid a similar incident from occurring again.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby stated that staff attempted to assign dates to some of the future topics in order to keep the calendar as clear as possible.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to adjourn the Public Works Committee meeting.

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Westby, P.E.
City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.