

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present:     Chairperson Chris Riley (via Zoom)  
                            Councilmember Debra Musgrove  
                            Councilmember Matt Woestehoff

Also Present:         City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Bruce Westby  
                            Assistant City Engineer Joe Feriancek  
                            Public Works Streets Supervisor Shane Turner  
                            Civil Engineer IV Leonard Linton

**1.     CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Riley asked that Councilmember Musgrove act as Chair for the meeting as he is not in person at the meeting.

Acting Chairperson Musgrove 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 Riley, to approve the agenda, as presented.

A roll call vote was performed:

Acting Chairperson Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Woestehoff	aye
Councilmember Riley	aye

Motion carried.

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01:   Approve November 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated November 15, 2023

A roll call vote was performed:

Acting Chairperson Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Woestehoff	aye
Councilmember Riley	aye

Motion carried.

## **5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **5.01: Appoint Chair and Vice Chair of the Public Works Committee.**

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to appoint Chris Riley as Chair and Debra Musgrove as Vice Chairperson of the Public Works Committee for the term January 17, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

A roll call vote was performed:

Acting Chairperson Musgrove	aye
Councilmember Woestehoff	aye
Councilmember Riley	aye

Motion carried.

### **5.02: Consider Recommendation for City Council to Approve Pedestrian and Bicycle Facility Option as Part of Improvement Project #23-04, 167<sup>th</sup> Avenue Reconstruction**

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation for alternative #1, design option 1: bike lanes between Nowthen Boulevard and Quicksilver Street. If alternative #2 or #3 were chosen, the impacts to the project timeline would no longer allow construction to occur in 2023.

Acting Chairperson Musgrove asked if there is crash data available for Variolite and 161<sup>st</sup> as that would be similar to the scenario in option two.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby replied that staff is not aware of any issues at that intersection but could look into it.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that he was aware of two incidents in the past two years at Variolite Street and 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue from the reduced sightlines when vehicles are crossing. He

stated that often people hit the sign on the island, but the incidents in that area are not related to the change in orientation of the roadway.

Acting Chairperson Musgrove commented that she does not need staff to look into that data. She stated that she is leaning towards option one and asked for information on the street width and bike lane dimensions.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek clarified the drive lane width and bike lane.

Acting Chairperson Musgrove asked if Variolite would be the same dimensions.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that Variolite does not have the three-foot buffer and believed the land widths were also different.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that he has heard that residents do not like walking south of 158<sup>th</sup> or 159<sup>th</sup> because they prefer the off-road trail rather than walking on the side of the road because of the speed of traffic. He stated that he would have hesitation with on-street facilities because of that experience. He stated that he is leaning towards option three because it would be slightly cheaper and would require less acquisition.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated that staff did look internally at traffic calming and the best way to do so would be to narrow the road. He stated that staff would recommend 12-foot lanes with a center shared turn lane, providing examples of where that has been done on other roadways in the city. He stated that they would have to reduce the speed in order to provide a crossing.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that a crossing would be needed if they chose the north route but noted that he does not prefer the north route.

Councilmember Riley asked if there is any way to include a physical barrier, such as a curb, in option one.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that staff would have to bring that concept back to Bolton and Menk to gain their input. He stated that adding that type of barrier on this type of roadway would create challenges when plowing.

Councilmember Riley stated that he agrees that he does not prefer the north side option as Elmcrest Park would be one of the largest considerations and therefore if a crosswalk is not feasible, he is not interested in that option. He recognized that a wetland delineation required for the south side option would slow the process.

Acting Chairperson Musgrove noted that option three was her second choice. She stated that when reviewing the roadway in the CIP, it seems to have different designations. She asked if there would be potential to improve the road and trail in the future as development occurs if they choose option one at this time.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated that the developer would run into the same potential issues that arose in this case. He also noted the cost for off street facilities.

Councilmember Woestehoff commented that he would agree that would be an opportunity for a private developer to move forward with that, but in reviewing the map there are only a handful of properties that could develop and they would be on the north side, which is not preferred. He was unsure that those properties would be properly aligned with the potential goal. He stated that he sees this as an opportunity to connect Elmcrest with Nowthen Boulevard.

Acting Chairperson Musgrove asked if the road could be done in stages. She asked if they could move forward with option three without delaying the road improvement.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that they could split that and do the road project in 2023 and come back with a separate trail project. He noted that there would be additional cost in doing two separate projects.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby stated that he agrees that the projects could be done separately. He stated that his only concern would be how wide the road is made in 2023 if the trail is delayed another year, as pedestrians will still use the roadway during the interim time before the trail is completed.

Councilmember Woestehoff agreed that is a great point and stated that communication would be a factor in alerting residents that a trail will be coming in the future.

Councilmember Riley stated that he is very concerned with timing and cost. He stated that option one is a lot better than the current situation and having the three-foot buffer lines would seem to make that option acceptable. He stated that he supports option one.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Acting Chairperson Musgrove, to recommend that the City Council authorize staff to design option #1: bike lanes as part of Improvement Project #23-03, 167<sup>th</sup> Avenue Reconstruction.

Further discussion: Councilmember Woestehoff stated that he will most likely disagree with this action. He stated that the City does not get the opportunity to do things right very often. He agreed that option one is very attractive but believes that a better job could be done with the trail. City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby provided the widths of the lanes on Variolite as previously requested. Acting Chairperson Musgrove asked and received confirmation that the speed on the roadway would not change with option one. Councilmember Woestehoff asked and received confirmation that the on-road bike lane would be provided on the north and south sides but recognized a lack of safe crossing. Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated that the scenario for crossing would remain the same as it exists today. He noted that during certain times of days a person would need to wait to cross but other times there would be no wait to cross. Councilmember Woestehoff stated that he still has a concern with a lack of crossing.

A roll call vote was performed:

Acting Chairperson Musgrove        aye  
Councilmember Woestehoff        nay  
Councilmember Riley                aye

Motion carried.

**5.03: Committee Update on Central Park Southern Parking Lot Reconstruction as Part of 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue Reconstruction**

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation to construct the Central Park southern parking lot as part of Improvement Project #23-01, 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue Reconstruction. On November 15, 2022, the Public Works Committee recommended reconstruction of the Central Park southern parking lot after identifying that it was in similar condition as the main parking lot, and it would make the most sense to complete the reconstruction at the same time.

Acting Chairperson Musgrove asked for details on timing and potential staging for the project.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek provided details on the 161<sup>st</sup> project, noting that there could be potential for crossover. He stated that a portion of the parking lot was going to be used for staging, so there was going to be impact either way.

Acting Chairperson Musgrove asked if there is a potential for the same contractor to bid both projects.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek commented that it is common that a contractor would attempt to win both bids because of the proximity.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to recommend the City Council authorize construction of the Central Park southern parking lot as part of Improvement Project #23-01, 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue Reconstruction.

A roll call vote was performed:

Acting Chairperson Musgrove        aye  
Councilmember Woestehoff        aye  
Councilmember Riley                aye

Motion carried.

**6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT**

**6.01: Staff 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 and studies and on other items of interest to the Committee.

Councilmember Riley asked for clarification on the estimated cost for the water treatment plant.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby confirmed that the estimated cost was reduced by approximately \$2,000,000 and provided additional details on the estimated costs.

Acting Chairperson Musgrove stated that perhaps an invitation is extended to the other members of the Council to attend the CSAH 5 corridor presentation.

Councilmember Riley noted that the study could also be shared with the other members.

Acting Chairperson Musgrove asked what the next step will be if the resident does not respond to staff related to the Sunfish Lake item.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby stated that he has attempted to reach the resident via email and could continue to do so for a bit longer. All members of the committee stated that they would be willing to reach out to the resident as well. It was confirmed that City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby would send a more formal letter in attempt to gain response.

## **6.02: Review Future Topics Calendar**

Councilmember Riley referenced the drainage issues of 180<sup>th</sup> and asked if that should be added to this list.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby stated that staff has been moving forward with the drainage design options and once that is completed staff will discuss those options with the property owner. He stated that staff can continue to follow that path or could involve this group. He confirmed the consensus of the group that once he meets with the property owner, he would bring a potential project back to the committee for review.

Acting Chairperson Musgrove referenced the EAB boulevard tree removal and asked if action would be needed by the committee or Council.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby stated that the trees have been identified but the large amounts of snowfall have delayed the removal of those trees.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that it seems the project is being handled by staff and therefore perhaps this item can be removed from the calendar and list.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby stated that he will leave the item on for the next month and provide a better update at the next meeting related to tree replacement.

Acting Chairperson Musgrove referenced the flashing yellow arrows and asked for an update on the anticipated timeline.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby replied that they will most likely wait for the Highway 10 project to be completed to see how that impacts the traffic patterns. He noted that the County is not proposing any improvements at the noted intersections and therefore any project would need to be led by the City.

Acting Chairperson Musgrove commented that a lot of information was learned through that process, including the high cost.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that perhaps it would make sense to begin budgeting for intersection improvements so the City would be able to complete one in the future. He also noted that changed traffic patterns during construction could also preempt the need for that type of improvement.

City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director Westby noted that with additional home construction, an additional traffic signal may soon be needed on the south side of the Armstrong interchange.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked if a roundabout would be a feasible option for the south side of the bridge.

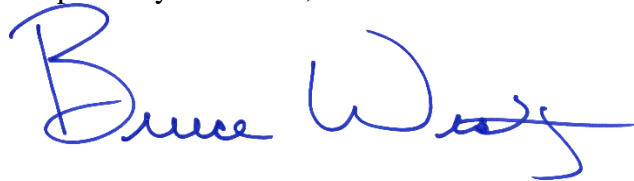
## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Bruce Westby  
City Engineer/Interim Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*