

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 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/Public Works Director Bruce Westby
 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 Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to approve the agenda, as presented.

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve February 21, 2023, Meeting Minutes

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated February 21, 2023

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

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Receive Presentation on CSAH 5 (Nowthen Boulevard) Corridor Traffic Study

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby provided brief background information on the corridor study, noting that the complete study was provided in the case. He introduced the staff member from Anoka County present at the meeting.

Jack Forslund, Transportation Planner for Anoka County Highway Department, stated that Anoka County recognized there will likely be changes in travel patterns due to the proposed Ramsey Gateway Highway 10 construction project and wanted to determine what some of those impacts may be. He stated that the study also reviewed the traffic and safety conditions both existing and projected into the future and to consider future improvements along the corridor. He recognized that Ramsey Elementary will see an increase in enrollment, so they also reviewed what could be done to assist the school. He reviewed the change in travel patterns that were forecasted following the grade separation improvements to Highway 10 and the bridges over the railroad tracks on Ramsey Boulevard and Sunfish Lake Boulevard. He stated that once the Highway 10 improvements are completed, traffic will likely remain on Highway 10 longer and exit on Sunfish Lake Boulevard or Ramsey Boulevard, which will decrease traffic on Highway 47 and Bunker Lake Boulevard. He reviewed the current ratings of intersections along the corridor as well as projected ratings along with similar information relating to crash data. He reviewed the key findings of the study and highlighted some of the potential improvements that were reviewed to improve the corridor. He noted that the County is actively attempting to gain funding for improvements. He stated that for the elementary school, most of the improvements would be on the school site itself, improving the parent drop-off function. He stated that the County consultant worked with the school to provide some potential plans.

Chairperson Riley asked if the mentioned roundabouts would help to control speed.

Mr. Forslund confirmed that roundabouts do help to control speed as vehicles have to slow their speed to move through.

Councilmember Woestehoff referenced the intersections of Green Valley Road and 175th and asked if the study accounted for planned development in the area.

Mr. Forslund confirmed that they worked with the City to use the proposed site plans for future development to account for that additional traffic.

Councilmember Musgrove referenced the grant funding that was mentioned. She asked if the likelihood for funding would increase if the four improvements were bundled together as a safety improvement project for the corridor.

Mr. Forslund replied that would not assist in eligibility for that type of funding. He stated that they will continue to submit for different types of funding.

Councilmember Musgrove noted that Sunwood Drive and Green Valley Road are high priorities for the City. She acknowledged that with the Highway 10 improvements, a roundabout at Ramsey Boulevard would be helpful.

Chairperson Riley asked if the anticipated shift in traffic patterns would cause issues on the other roadways that are anticipated to increase in traffic.

Mr. Forslund stated that the shift in traffic would not cause issues on those roads.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that it is nice to have this data and numbers that can be used for comparison in the future.

Chairperson Riley asked the next step in the process.

Mr. Forslund stated that the County has a capital improvement process, similar to the City. He noted that these improvements are not yet included in the Anoka County CIP, but that the County is constantly updating its system.

Councilmember Musgrove asked if the City including projects on its CIP would assist in moving projects up on the County radar.

Mr. Forslund commented that they do listen to the cities, noting that this study was completed because of input and requests from the City of Ramsey.

Chairperson Riley thanked Mr. Forslund for attending and providing input.

5.02: Consider Recommending City Council Approval of Ordering Requests for Proposals for 2023 Capital Improvement Program Project Topographic Surveys, Geotechnical Services, Utility Testing, and Engineering Services

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek presented the staff report and stated that staff recommends City Council approval of ordering Requests for Proposals for 2024 Capital Improvement Program Project Topographic Surveys, Geotechnical Services, Utility Testing and Engineering Services.

Chairperson Riley commented that it would make sense to attempt to coordinate with Nowthen on the streets that continue into that community. He asked if these were the streets in the worst condition that were included for 2024.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek confirmed that staff used the CIP and list of streets within the City's plan in attempt to tackle those in the worst condition while also addressing roads that could still receive an overlay.

Chairperson Riley asked if the winter conditions changed anything, or whether there needs to be flexibility.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek stated that the CIP is reviewed every year and some tweaking is done to the projects, while the goal is to not move projects backs. He stated that sometimes they can include an additional road. He stated that staff believes that this would max out what they could do within the year, based on staffing levels and funding.

Councilmember Woestehoff asked about the dirt road that has been discussed for paving on the north side of Ramsey. He noted that if it were close to these roads he would wonder whether it would be appropriate to pave the roadway.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby identified the roadway and stated it is not close to the proposed improvements.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to recommend City Council approval of ordering Requests for Proposals for 2024 Capital Improvement Program project topographic surveys, geotechnical services, utility testing and engineering services.

Further discussion: Chairperson Riley commented that this is great and staff should be commended for this work.

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

5.03: Consider Recommending City Council Approval of Plans and Specifications and Award of Contract for Improvement Project #23-09, 2023 Pavement Rejuvenation Improvements

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and stated that staff recommends City Council approval of plans and specifications and award of contract for Improvement Project #23-09, 2023 Pavement Rejuvenation Improvements.

Chairperson Riley asked for details on the process and whether that has changed.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the process and confirmed that it remains the same.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that this plan is great and trusts that staff will add roads when possible.

Motion by Councilmember Musgrove, seconded by Councilmember Woestehoff, to recommend City Council approval of plans and specifications and award of contract for Improvement Project #23-09, 2023 Pavement Rejuvenation Improvements.

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

5.04: Consider Recommendation to City Council to Accept Bids and Award Contract for Improvement Project #21-09, Centralized Water Treatment Plant

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby presented the staff report and stated that staff recommends City Council acceptance of bids and award of construction contract for Improvement

Project #21-09, Centralized Water Treatment Plans, to Magney Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$31,478,500.

Chairperson Riley referenced the \$50,000 savings for bid alternate 1, which is .16 percent of the project cost. He noted that the delay would cause them to miss the peak season which also allows the new equipment to come on line in a less taxing season. He asked if there would be enough value to the City to account for the \$50,000 savings noting that is relatively small in terms of the overall project cost.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that the longer a project goes on, the more inspections there would be and stated that many of the inspections cannot be provided by in-house staff. He stated that he is working to determine what the additional cost for inspections would be if bid alternate 1 was approved.

Chairperson Riley stated that if the savings were larger, he may agree with the delay.

Councilmember Woestehoff stated that he agrees that the \$50,000 is not enough to justify the additional four months. He stated that perhaps an incentive is offered if the desired completion date is reached.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that the low bid seems to be very tight compared to the estimate and the other bids.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that he is not privy as to how the numbers are determined by the bidder. He noted that sometimes a bidder may have materials available on hand that were already purchased but not used. He stated that the bidder could really want the project and want to ensure work for their crews.

Chairperson Riley asked if the bid has been reviewed to ensure it is responsible.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby confirmed that the bid has been reviewed and determined to be responsible. He stated that the committee should make a recommendation on whether or not to accept the bid. He stated that staff will bring back additional information on the bid alternate for review when it goes forward to the City Council. He noted that the recommendation of staff at that time may be to not accept the bid alternate.

Chairperson Riley commented that he would tend not to accept the bid alternate.

Motion by Councilmember Woestehoff, seconded by Councilmember Musgrove, to recommend City Council acceptance of bids and award of construction contract for Improvement Project #21-09, Centralized Water Treatment Plant, to Magney Construction, Inc., rejecting bid alternate #1.

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

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

6.01: Staff Updates on Improvement Projects and Items of Interest

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby provided an update on current and proposed City, County, and MnDOT improvement projects and studies, and on other items of interest to the committee. He also provided an update on pothole activity, resident complaints, and a form that can be completed for damages to vehicles due to potholes. He stated that typically in the winter they use one trailer of cold mix for pothole patching and this year they have placed seven trailers of cold mix to patch potholes, and the supplier has now run out.

6.02: Review Future Topics Calendar

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby stated that staff is working on the 2023 spray patching plan and will bring that forward for committee review in April.

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 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Westby
City Engineer/Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.