

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Michael Olson
 Councilmember Chris Riley
 Councilmember Dan Specht (arrived at 5:33 p.m.)

Also Present: City Engineer/Public Works Director Bruce Westby
 Assistant City Engineer Joe Feriancek

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Olson 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 Riley, seconded by Councilmember Olson, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Olson and Councilmember Riley. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Specht.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve March 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated March 18, 2025

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Olson and Councilmember Riley. Voting No: None. Absent: Councilmember Specht.

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.01: Consider Recommending City Council Order Plans and Specifications for MSA Bunker Lake Boulevard Reconstruction, Improvement Project #26-01

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation for City Council to order plans and specifications and award the engineering design proposal from Bolton & Menk, Inc. for MSA Bunker Lake Boulevard Reconstruction, Improvement Project #26-01.

Councilmember Specht arrived.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby stated that this is a 2026 project, so that will provide time to work through the assessment process.

Chairperson Olson asked and received confirmation that the project was moved up a few years to take advantage of the available TIF funds.

Councilmember Riley asked if the dollars coming from TIF 18 is the maximum that could be used.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek confirmed that is the estimated available balance.

Chairperson Olson recognized that the estimated cost will be higher than what was planned in the CIP and asked if that is due to the storm sewer.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek confirmed that the higher cost is because of the amount of storm sewer pipe and catch basins.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to recommend City Council order plans and specifications and award the engineering design proposal from Bolton & Menk, Inc. for MSA Bunker Lake Boulevard Reconstruction, Improvement Project #26-01.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Olson, Councilmembers Riley and Specht. Voting No: None.

5.02: Consider Recommending City Council Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for MSA Alpine Drive Reconstruction, Improvement Project #25-03

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation for City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorizing advertisement for bids for MSA Alpine Drive Reconstruction, Improvement Project #25-03, with the alternate bid.

Councilmember Specht asked why the newer section of the road was in poor condition.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek commented on the high groundwater level in that area and noted that the road's profile would be raised in an attempt to prevent that from occurring again.

Councilmember Riley asked and received confirmation that the MSA funds could be used to raise the profile of the road.

Chairperson Olson asked the life expectancy of a trail versus a road.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that the anticipated lifespan of a trail is less than a road. He explained that the new trail policy includes ongoing trail maintenance, which will help extend the lives of trails. He estimated 50-plus years for the lifespan of a trail in Ramsey.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to recommend City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorizing advertisement for bids for MSA Alpine Drive Reconstruction, Improvement Project #25-03, with the alternate bid.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Olson, Councilmembers Riley and Specht. Voting No: None.

5.03: Consider Recommending City Council Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for 2025 Neighborhood Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #25-07

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek reviewed the staff report and recommendation for City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorizing advertisement for bids for 2025 Neighborhood Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #25-07, with the alternate bid.

Councilmember Specht referenced the concrete and asked if a different material could be used for cost savings.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek replied that concrete would be the only material that could be used to achieve ADA compliance.

Councilmember Riley commented that these roads are quite new and asked if the purpose of this project is to provide maintenance and keep the roads on track.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek confirmed that is correct, noting the typical maintenance cycle of a road, which would include two cycles of overlays.

Councilmember Specht asked if the Radium Street medians provide elements of safety or any other benefits.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that physically separated lanes are typically safer, but noted that this is a 30-mph street, so there is not as much concern for head-on collisions.

Chairperson Olson commented that medians can be aesthetically pleasing when properly maintained, but if that is not done, there is the opposite effect. He agreed that it would make sense to remove the medians when they are redoing the road.

Councilmember Specht asked if the approval of the HOA is needed or whether that is being requested as more of a courtesy. It was confirmed that HOA approval is not needed.

Assistant City Engineer Feriancek confirmed the consensus of the Committee in support of the removal of the medians.

Councilmember Riley acknowledged that this project is being completed to stay on track with the overall maintenance schedule and not because they are the worst streets.

Motion by Councilmember Riley, seconded by Councilmember Specht, to recommend City Council approval of plans and specifications and authorization to advertise for bids for 2025 Neighborhood Pavement Overlay Improvements, Improvement Project #25-07, with the alternate bid and to include removal of the medians on Radium Street.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Olson, Councilmembers Riley and Specht. Voting No: None.

5.04: Consider Options and Review Gravel Road Elimination Program Funding Options

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby reviewed the staff report.

Councilmember Riley asked if any of these could be done as small add-ons to another project.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that there would not be many opportunities to combine these with another project, as they serve isolated neighborhoods.

Councilmember Specht asked and received confirmation that the estimated total cost for paving all six gravel road segments would be \$2,200,000.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby noted the different funding options that were, and could be considered, as well as future expenditures.

Councilmember Specht commented that he did not believe they should look at this as one large project and should instead split the individual projects apart to work away at them one by one. He believed that the full input of the Council would be wanted to discuss funding.

Chairperson Olson commented that it is good to keep pushing it forward, but acknowledged that it is daunting to try to do it all at once.

Councilmember Specht believed that they should push this to the City Council to have the discussion at that level rather than continuing to discuss it at the Committee level. He confirmed that he would prefer to split these projects over the next six years rather than attempting to do them all as one project.

Chairperson Olson asked if there would be problems with the aging grader if this were spread over the next six years.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby provided details on the condition of the grader and the repairs that are completed each year. He stated that eventually the transmission will go out and would cost \$60,000 to \$70,000 to replace. He confirmed that there would be an option to rent a grader if necessary.

Councilmember Riley commented that, potentially, the cost is not \$2,200,000 if assessments are involved.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby provided additional details on potential assessments and potential challenges that could occur if the assessment is set too high.

Councilmember Riley commented that because of the small number of properties on each road, it would seem that assessments would not be worth the effort.

Councilmember Specht agreed.

Chairperson Olson also agreed.

Councilmember Riley asked if staff had any input on how the projects could be broken up.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that the case from the previous meeting included a priority list for the projects. He confirmed that the Committee does not support assessments and asked if the Committee supports bonding.

Councilmember Specht stated that he would support bonding.

Councilmember Riley stated that he would not support bonding.

Chairperson Olson stated that he would be neutral on that.

Councilmember Specht suggested that the topic of a multi-year gravel road elimination program, to include potential funding sources, and priority list, move forward to a Council worksession.

Chairperson Olson agreed that a worksession format would be the best path forward.

Councilmember Riley believed that this should have its own worksession to ensure sufficient time.

6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT

6.01: Review Preliminary Street Lighting Plans for The COR

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby reviewed the staff report and stated that, at a minimum, staff recommends providing street lights at all intersections and mid-block pedestrian crossings, as well as along all off-road sidewalks and trails.

Councilmember Specht asked if there are complaints about the lack of lighting.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that the city is not receiving complaints on this topic, however, some streets are new, and the Waterfront is not yet complete. He stated that as they build the Waterfront out with amenities, they will see additional pedestrian use in that area and will want to improve safety for pedestrians.

Councilmember Riley commented that he would support the minimum lighting at intersections and pedestrian crossings rather than follow the original COR Master Streetlight Plan verbatim considering that more recent development in The COR is not following the original concept.

Chairperson Olson agreed that there is a balance between being well-balanced for safety and light pollution. He agreed with priority lighting at intersections and pedestrian crossings.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby commented that they could begin with lighting Ramsey Parkway and intersections and confirmed that he could obtain a high-level estimate from Connexus. He recalled one complaint he received about the lack of lighting at Bunker Lake Boulevard and Zeolite Street.

6.02: Receive Updates on Improvement Projects, Studies, 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.

6.03: Review Future Topics Calendar

Noted.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Westby
City Engineer/Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.