

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

The Public Works Committee conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present:     Chairperson Michael Olson  
                            Councilmember Chris Riley  
                            Councilmember Dan Specht

Also Present:           City Engineer/Public Works Director Bruce Westby

**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 Specht, seconded by Councilmember Riley, to approve the agenda, as presented.

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

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01:  Approve October 21, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

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

Regular Meeting Minutes dated October 21, 2025

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

**5.     COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**5.01:  Review Individual Street Light Request Estimated Costs and Timelines**

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby reviewed the staff report and stated that, based on that information, staff recommends not approving street light installation requests for school bus stops on local streets unless extenuating circumstances exist, in which case staff can evaluate the request in detail and present staff's findings at the next regularly scheduled Public Works Committee meeting. Staff also recommends evaluating all other requests on a case-by-case basis until such time that the Traffic Control Modification Request Policy is amended to incorporate street light requests.

Councilmember Riley referenced one of the additional requests received and asked if it is a dark neighborhood with no lights.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that most of the streetlight requests he is receiving are in older neighborhoods and the northern areas of the city where no streetlights exist, except at intersections along collector streets.

Councilmember Specht asked if that was an intentional decision to avoid light pollution.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that the homes existed when the City was incorporated in 1974, and there were no lights at that time. He stated that generally, residents in the northern part of the city tend to prefer the dark sky and enjoy the ability to see the stars. He stated that there is no policy in place, but generally the City does not install lights for bus stops, noting that by the time the light is installed it is Spring and the sun rises earlier, therefore the need no longer exists.

Chairperson Olson invited residents to speak.

Carolyn Struffert, 18031 Uranium St NW, commented that there is one street light at Green Valley Road and Vanadium Street as you enter the neighborhood, but the remaining streets are dark. She did not believe light pollution would be a concern with the number of trees that exist, but believed that an additional light would provide a safety benefit. She stated that she has looked to install solar lighting but was unsure if that would function properly in her yard.

Councilmember Riley asked if this location is a bus stop.

Ms. Struffert identified the bus stop location and confirmed that is the intersection she is requesting a street light for. She recognized that bus stop locations will change, but the intersection will always benefit from increased lighting.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby identified the intersection, noting the proximity to the city boundary with Nowthen and the cross-connection between cities.

Chairperson Olson thanked the resident for bringing forward her request, but recognized that more work would need to be done before a decision could be made. He recognized that bus stop locations often change from year to year, and therefore, providing lighting based on a bus stop location is not a proper justification, but recognized that this will always be an intersection. He stated that additional research will be done on this request.

Ms. Struffert asked if residents can add a private light to existing street light poles.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby did not believe Connexus would allow private parties to install lights on public street light poles.

Chairperson Olson noted that residents can add lighting to private property for security.

Chairperson Olson asked if it would be helpful to have signage installed alerting traffic to school bus stops, as that could be easier and less expensive to install and move.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby stated that is an interesting concept that he has not observed before.

Chairperson Olson asked if solar lighting signs would be effective in evening hours.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that there are signs with built-in lights, but Ramsey has not used them.

Councilmember Riley acknowledged that older neighborhoods were developed prior to the streetlight requirements and that in new developments, developers are responsible for the cost to install those lights. He recognized that it would be difficult to go back and try to install lights in older neighborhoods, as while some people may like increased lighting, others may not. He asked if staff could develop some criteria to review requests.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby replied that the city has standards for the location of streetlights in new developments. He stated that the traffic control policy includes a petition process to ensure a threshold of people in the neighborhood support the request, and a similar requirement could apply to lighting. He asked if the Committee would like staff to investigate potential advisory signs that could be used to identify school bus stop locations.

Councilmember Specht referenced studies that have been conducted that show drivers do not always pay attention to those signs. He agreed that they would need to consider the wants/needs of all residents, as some may want something and others may not.

Councilmember Riley stated that he does agree with the staff recommendation and asked that staff provide criteria for what could be considered under extenuating circumstances.

Chairperson Olson stated that he also likes the petition process, as that would show the level of support within the neighborhood.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby stated that he could bring back another case back at a future meeting with additional information on the topic.

## **5.02: Receive Update 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.

**5.03: Review Future Topics Calendar**

City Engineer/Public Works Director Westby reviewed the future topics calendar.

**6. COMMITTEE / STAFF INPUT**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bruce Westby  
City Engineer/Public Works Director

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