

November 30, 2018

Cindy Voigt, City Engineer
City Hall, Room 211
411 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802

RE: Request for City Approval (Municipal Consent) of the Final Layout for SP 6982-328

Dear Ms. Voigt:

MnDOT is proceeding with plans to complete State Project 6982-328, Local Street Improvements to for the Twin Ports Interchange (TPI) project. Work on this project includes:

- Concrete pavement repair on Garfield Avenue from Nelson Avenue to Superior Street with ADA improvements at intersections. Garfield Avenue will be restriped to a 3 lane section, one lane in direction, and a center turn lane.
- Bituminous mill and overlay on Railroad Street from Garfield Avenue to 5th Avenue West. In a separate project, the BNSF Railway will be removing one rail crossing and improving the other four crossings to provide a smoother crossing for vehicles and bicyclists.
- Intersection improvements at Garfield Avenue and Railroad Street to provide turn lanes and improve traffic flow.
- A bituminous overlay on 27th Avenue West from I-35 to Michigan Street. 27th Avenue West from I-35 to Superior Street will be re-striped for one lane from I-35 to Michigan Street, 2 lanes from Michigan Street to I-35 and a turn lane.
- Restriping of Michigan Street at 27th Avenue West and traffic signal modification to provide a dedicated southbound left turn lane and ADA improvements.
- A bituminous overlay 46th Avenue West from T.H. 2 (Bong Bridge) to Grand Avenue, but no striping changes. ADA improvements at the First Street/Mike Colalillo Drive.

In accordance with Minnesota Statute 161.164, I am submitting for City approval the project's Final Layout, identified as S.P. 6982-328.

The City's approval (municipal consent) is required for this project because it increases highway traffic capacity with the striping modifications to allow for turn lanes. Municipal consent of MnDOT projects is described in Minnesota Statutes 161.162 through 161.167 (attached).

Approval or disapproval of the final layout is by resolution of the City Council. However, if the City neither approves nor disapproves the final layout within 90 days of the public hearing, the layout is deemed approved (per MN Statute 161.164).

The deadlines (per MN Statute 161.164) for the City's responsibilities regarding municipal consent from November 30, 2018, the date of this letter are as follows:

- Within 15 days of receiving the final layout, schedule a public hearing by December 14, 2018.
- Within 60 days of receiving the final layout, conduct the public hearing by January 14, 2019.
- Provide at least 30-days' notice of the public hearing.
- Within 90 days of the public hearing, approve or disapprove the layout by resolution by March 1, 2019.

MnDOT will attend the public hearing to present the final layout and answer questions, as required by statute.

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to improve the pavement condition of local streets and improve safety and capacity by striping turn lanes. These streets are anticipated to be primary alternate routes for I-35 during the reconstruction of the I-35/I-535/Hwy 53 interchange (aka "Can of Worms") beginning in 2020.

Planned Project Schedule

The project bid letting is scheduled for April 26, 2019. Work is anticipated to begin in June 2019. The work on Railroad Street, 27th and 46th Avenues West will require daytime lane closure and is anticipated to take several days at each location.

Work on Garfield Avenue will require longer term lane closures, from 4-6 weeks in duration. However, one lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained during construction.

City's Estimated Project Costs

There will be no direct costs to the City of Duluth. The City was scheduled to receive \$247,000 in federal funds for pavement repairs on Garfield Avenue. This funding will be transferred to MnDOT and applied toward the Garfield Avenue pavement repairs.

Attached is MnDOT's current estimate for S.P. 6982-328.

City's Maintenance Responsibilities

The City of Duluth will be responsible for the complete maintenance of the local streets in the project after the work under S.P. 6982-328 is completed. A bituminous overlay.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this submittal.

Cindy Voigt
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Sincerely,



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Twin Ports Interchange Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Transportation
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Roberta.dwyer@state.mn.us

Attachments:

Final Layout for SP 6982-328, dated November 30, 2018
MN Statutes 161.162 – 161.167
Estimated Project Costs

cc: Duane Hill, District Engineer
Pat Huston, Major Projects Engineer
John McDonald, State Aid Engineer