

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

August 6, 2014

Members Present: Brian Alsaker, Ryan Daniel, Kurt Franke (arrived at 4:10), Tama Theis, Hazel Youngmann

Member Absent: Steve Ludwig

City Staff Present: Steve Foss and Janice Koetter, Recording Secretary

Vice Chairperson Daniel called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Daniel moved to approve the July 2, 2014, minutes. Alsaker seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Foss recommended waiting until the September meeting to hold the Board elections because the City Council is scheduled to renew the appointments at their August 11, 2014, meeting. Board concurred with waiting until the September meeting.

Foss reported that for the first time in a long time there was a local maintenance project budgeted for 2015. This can be used for seal coat, overlay or a combination of the two. Foss said one area that has been identified is the Goetten's neighborhood which was built predominantly in the late 80's or early 90's. Project areas are identified by a collaborative effort between Utilities, Street Maintenance and Engineering. The Board should also be included in the effort. The City Council has already ordered 9th Avenue South from University Drive to 22nd Street South to be overlaid with MSA funds.

Foss brought a map to the meeting where he had highlighted potential maintenance areas. A section of Washington Memorial Drive from University Drive to St. Germain is a potential area. Foss stated that there is so much need in the system so he has been looking for sections in the system where there are gaps that have not been done. Last year we did Washington Memorial Drive from University Drive to CSAH 75. This would complete that section.

Alsaker suggested doing the section of 9th Avenue South north of University Drive. Foss said there are old utilities under that stretch of roadway that need to be replaced so it would significantly increase the cost.

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Foss stated that he has been getting concerns from people regarding the roads in the area by the hospital – 6th Avenue North from 12th to 15th Street North and 13th Street North from 6th to 9th Avenue North. Youngmann agreed with 13th Street North and felt it should be continued west of 9th Avenue North as well.

Alsaker questioned if there is an advantage to installing concrete roads. Foss said that the life cycle is better, but there is a huge cost up front. In an urban setting we end up cutting into the roads too often so bituminous is easier to overlay.

Foss explained that on 9th Avenue North, the City milled the entire roadway from edge of road to edge of road about 2 to 2½ inches. In the Goetten's neighborhood they would do an edge mill. On roads with lighter volumes of traffic, they mill off an edge 4' to 5' wide next to the gutters. That way when the roadway is overlaid, the roadway will match flush with the curb. There is a cost savings because we do not mill the entire area of blacktop.

Foss explained that when a new road is built, within 3 to 7 years a seal coat should be done on it. It should also be seal coated at 14 years and then overlaid at 20 years. If you let it go too long, the whole road will have to be rebuilt. Some of the roads that are bad have deteriorated to the point that they are too far gone.

Foss reported that if the proposed half cent sales tax extension gets approved by the voters, 60% is slated for transportation, 20% for parks and 20% for airport. It will be the first time there is a dedicated consistent funding source. This asked when the City was going to start promoting it. Foss explained that City staff cannot campaign on behalf of it; however, the Board or other community groups can.

Foss encouraged the Board to look at roads and come to September meeting with suggestions. By October he would like to take something to the City Council.

Franke suggested looking at 29th Avenue North between 12th and 15th Street North. Youngmann questioned when 33rd Avenue North is scheduled. Foss said there is something in the CIP for improvements to 33rd Avenue North, but the details on what the improvements will include has not been determined.

Foss noted that seal coat needs to be done on roads that are still in good condition. The former township streets were all done in a 10-year period so they will all reach their overlay mark at approximately the same time. Foss said there are things to consider like road conditions, traffic volumes and political aspect.

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Daniel said they have been getting complaints that the new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses are hitting trees because they are slightly higher. Foss said the City no longer has a dedicated staff for tree trimming. However, if the Board notices locations where STOP signs or other safety signs are blocked by trees, they should let staff know.

Alsaker mentioned that on CSAH 120 at the intersection with CSAH 4 (Veterans Drive) there is now a painted stop line. Quite a few accidents occur there each year. Foss stated that this intersection is under Stearns County's jurisdiction, and they have improvements scheduled for that intersection in their CIP.

Foss noted that the City restripes the entire City on an annual basis. Some of the higher use areas are painted twice. Youngmann questioned the safety of the crosswalk by the Grace McDowall Apartments. Foss will look at it.

Foss reported that there will be an art project in the St. John's Cantius neighborhood next year. They will do artwork in the crosswalk areas of the 16th Avenue corridor from St. Germain Street to 3rd Street North.

Franke reported that the bike rack at the east side Northstar Park & Ride Lot is rotted. Daniel will take care of.

Theis questioned what the 33rd Street South corridor by CSAH 75 will look like after the improvements have been done. Discussion followed. Foss explained that 33rd Street South was originally going to be a Stearns County facility. Stearns County would not agree to having median openings so it stayed under the City's jurisdiction.

Youngmann questioned the median at Waite Avenue and T.H. 23. Foss said it is under the jurisdiction of MnDOT.

Theis asked if the Board could do a field trip to check out potential roads for maintenance. There seemed to be general support for doing that and Foss agreed that it could be done.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.