



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Public Works**

Date: June 5, 2007
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Subject: **Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement for Chicago Avenue S Bridge**

Recommendation:

Receive and File: Direct Staff to submit the Midtown Corridor Historic Bridge Study to the State Historic Preservation Office and Minnesota Department of Transportation Cultural Resources Unit.

Previous Directives:

- November 19, 2006 – Authorization to execute Amendment 1 to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).
- February 13, 2004 – Authorization to execute a Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement between the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Federal Highway Administration, Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis for mitigation of the historical loss due to the Replacement of the Chicago Avenue S and Park Avenue S Bridges over the Midtown Greenway (29th Street Corridor).

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Approved by: _____
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenter: Stephanie Malmberg, P. E., Professional Engineer, Public Works

Permanent Review Committee (PRC)	Approval _____	Not applicable	<u> X </u>
Policy review Group (PRG)	Approval _____	Not applicable	<u> X </u>

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase/decrease to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase/decrease to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Business Plan: X Action is within the plan. Action requires a change to plan.
- Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to department's Finance Dept. contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Not applicable at this point

City Goals: A safe place to call home, enriched environment

Comprehensive Plan: Engineering Services has been working with CPED regarding development & future land use along the corridor

Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

On May 15, 2007, when the Department of Public Works brought this report before the T&PW Committee, concerns were raised regarding aspects of the report's Traffic Impact and Circulation Study (Phase I). Phase I included an analysis of bridges which may be considered for possible reclassification or closure. Phase I is a traffic engineering analysis only. While the analysis was based on forecasts of future motorized vehicle traffic demands and future land use, it did not address other important factors such as impacts to the neighborhoods, impacts to the pedestrians and disconnecting portions of the City's street grid system. Phase I was not intended to make a recommendation to reclassify or close bridges but to investigate the feasibility and impacts to the City's street grid.

Since concerns were raised that the findings of Phase I may be interpreted as recommendations to close the bridges and that Phase I was not an obligation of the City's under the MOA, it was felt that the Phase I portion should be removed from the Midtown Corridor Historic Bridge Study.

Primary participants in this report have been advised of the City's intention to remove Phase I from the Study. This includes the State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Cultural Resources Unit (CRU), Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority and Hennepin County's Transportation Department. Primary participants were afforded the opportunity to comment on the decision to remove Phase I. No significant concerns were noted.

The remaining portion of the report addresses requirements in the Memorandum of Agreement which stipulates that the City and County complete a planning study for the bridges within the Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Grade Separation Historic District. The study is to include analysis of each bridge's condition, potential for rehabilitation and any proposed schedule for replacement. It was also to include an analysis of the district and the effects of any further bridge removals within the district. In the report it is made clear that the proposed schedule for replacement is contingent on Council & Stakeholder approval and available funding.

Next Steps

To fulfill our obligation to the Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement, Public Works will submit the study findings to MnDOT CRU and SHPO. Following submittal of the study, the City intends to seek Federal funds to assist in the preservation of these structures.

Public Works also feels that, with your concurrence, the current draft of the Phase I should be brought to the affected neighborhoods and communities to solicit input and expand on the variables not addressed in the traffic engineering analysis.

As is the Department's practice for community engagement and project development, Public Works will gather input from the affected neighborhood, businesses and Council before any Capital project involving the bridges within the Midtown Greenway moves forward. And finally, all proposed projects will be brought before this Committee for input and approval.

Attachments:

1. Study Area
2. Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement Between FHWA and SHPO Related to Bridge Replacement Project S.P. 141-165-15
3. Midtown Corridor Historic Bridge Study

Cc: Council Member Robert Lilligren, Ward 6
Council Member Gary Schiff, Ward 9
Council Member Ralph Remington, Ward 10
Tom Sorel, Federal Highway Administration
Jackie Sluss, Minnesota Department of Transportation Cultural Resources Unit
Dennis Gimmestad, State Historic Preservation Office
Marthand Nookala, Hennepin County Public Works
Jake Bronder, Hennepin County Public Works
Richard P. Johnson, Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority
Joseph Gladke, Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority
Tim Springer, Midtown Greenway Coalition
Beth Elliott, CPED/Planning Division
Tom Leighton, CPED/Planning Division
Rhonda Rae, Director of Engineering Services
Greg Schroeder, Engineering Services
Jack Yuzna, Engineering Services

T&PW - Your Committee recommends the following:

Receive and File: Direct Staff to submit the Midtown Corridor Historic Bridge Study to the State Historic Preservation Office and Minnesota Department of Transportation Cultural Resources Unit pending satisfactory review by the City Officials.