

City of Minneapolis

Request for Committee Action

To: Transportation & Public Works
Date: 10/11/2016
Referral: N/A
From: Public Works Department
Lead Staff: Jack Yuzna, Bridge Engineer, Transportation Engineering and Design
Presented by: Jack Yuzna, Bridge Engineer, Transportation Engineering and Design
File Type: Resolution
Subcategory: Street Project

Subject:

Layout Approval for Hennepin County Project No. 2151100 (1603), Replacement of the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 35 Bridge (Portland Ave S) over the Midtown Greenway.

Description:

Passage of Resolution Approving the Layout for Hennepin County Project No. 2151100 (1603), Replacement of the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 35 Bridge (Portland Ave S) over the Midtown Greenway.

Previous Actions:

None.

Ward/Address:

Ward 6

Background/Analysis:

In early 2016, Hennepin County began discussions with Minneapolis Public Works staff regarding its plans to rebuild the Portland Avenue S (CSAH 35) bridge over the Midtown Greenway in south Minneapolis. The existing bridge has a sufficiency rating of 41.1 and is listed as structurally deficient. Hennepin County held a public open house on August 28, 2016 as well as an informational event on the Midtown Greenway on August 31, 2016 to introduce design alternatives and obtain community and stakeholder input.

The new bridge design will include bicycle and pedestrian improvements and is designed to meet current statutory standards. Portland Ave S is a one-way southbound street. It currently has two motor vehicle lanes north of the bridge and transitions to three lanes at the bridge. The transition to three motor vehicle lanes will be moved south of the bridge. This will facilitate the bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Sidewalks will be widened to ten feet and a three-foot buffer will be added to the bicycle lane. The new layout has been reviewed by both the Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee & Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee. The grade on the bridge will be reduced to accommodate the selected bridge type (single span pre-stressed concrete beam superstructure). The result of the modest “flattening” of the grade will not negatively affect the bridge drainage or the vertical clearance for the Midtown Greenway below. The proposed permanent bridge improvements will be built within the county’s right-of-way.

The Midtown Greenway includes Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul (CM&StP) Railroad Grade Separation Historic District. The Portland Ave S Bridge is a contributing element to the district. Historic recordation of the bridge was documented in recent bridge assessment reports conducted by the County. Though replacement of the bridge does not require mitigation,

Hennepin County has applied for a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission.

The County anticipates construction can be completed in a single construction season. In order to accommodate removal and replacement of the existing bridge Portland Avenue S (CSAH 35) will be closed between 28th Street S. and 29th Street S. Construction will begin April 2017 and is anticipated to last through November 2017. The Midtown Greenway will see occasional temporary closures during construction. Greenway closures will be minimized and detours posted.

The proposed structure will include a single span bridge which resembles the existing by utilizing non-structural, aesthetic piers which do not support the bridge. The piers will reflect the original 3-span configuration deemed to be a key component of the historic fabric of this contributing element to the historic district. Neoclassic revival architectural details will be included in precast fascia panels and concrete railing details. The single span bridge allows for accommodation of future transit expansion, and the non-structural aesthetic piers will not require crash protection walls from future transit vehicles minimizing potential future environmental impacts within the Greenway.

Financial Review:

No financial impact.

Attachments:

1. Map.
2. Bridge Layout View.
3. Bridge Elevation View.
4. Resolution.
5. Public meeting invitation.
6. Public meeting summary.
7. Open House summary.
8. Midtown Greenway letter of support.