

February 9, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

The Minneapolis City Council is considering a street reconstruction project on Hennepin Avenue between Washington Avenue and 12th Street. The Hennepin Avenue reconstruction project is currently programmed in the City's Capital Improvement Program for the year 2020.

The Department of Public Works is conducting preliminary planning work in 2016 in order to submit an application for federal transportation funding that would help support the project in addition to State and local funding. Prior to submitting the grant application in the summer of 2016, Public Works will be seeking City Council approval for a preferred street corridor that establishes a general concept for the design of Hennepin Avenue.

Public Works will hold an informational meeting to introduce the scope of the 2020 Hennepin Avenue reconstruction project and discuss the purpose of the initial planning work in 2016. The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 17 at 4:00 p.m. with a repeat presentation at 5:00 p.m.** If you wish to attend, you only need to attend one presentation.

The meeting will be located at:

**Minneapolis Central Library
Doty Board Room (2nd Floor)
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401**

Public Works staff will be present to answer questions and there will be opportunities to provide general feedback about the corridor. There will be future opportunities in spring of 2016 to review proposed corridor concepts and provide feedback.

Additional information can be found on the attached page and on the project website:
www.minneapolismn.gov/cip/future/WCMSP-172270

If you have any questions about this project, please contact me at 612-673-5012
or Simon.Blenski@minneapolismn.gov.

Sincerely,

Simon Blenski
Project Planner
City of Minneapolis Department of Public Works

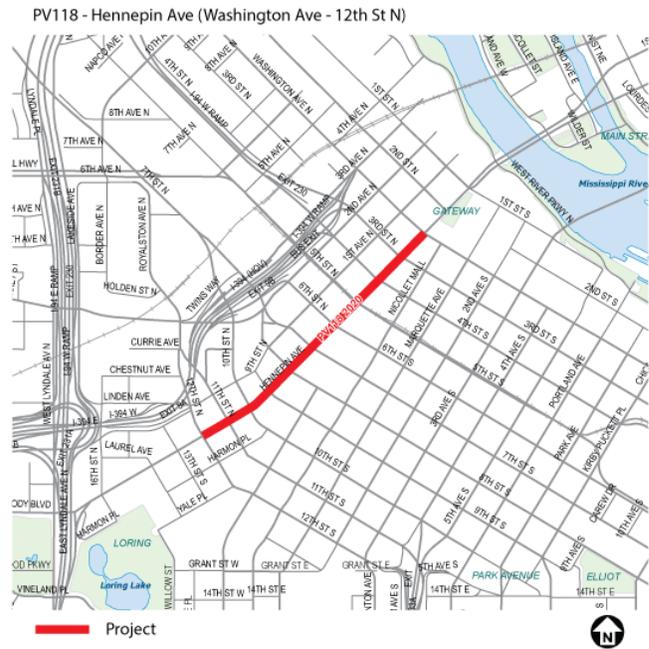
CC: Ward 3 Council Member Jacob Frey
Ward 7 Council Member Lisa Goodman
Jenifer Hager, Director of Transportation Planning and Programming

Project Background

Due to poor existing pavement condition, Hennepin Avenue between Washington Avenue and 12th Street is programmed in the City's Capital Improvement Program for reconstruction in 2020. Public Works is conducting preliminary planning work in 2016 in order to submit an application for federal transportation funding that would support the project in addition to MSA and local funding.

Existing Conditions

Hennepin Avenue is both a street and a destination. On average, people make over 48,000 trips per day along Hennepin Avenue including 8,100 transit trips, 7,600 pedestrian trips, and 1,300 bicycle trips. Hennepin Avenue is also recognized by the City as a cultural district with multiple theaters, arts institutions, and entertainment venues. The existing right-of-way along the corridor varies between 88-100 feet with a typical street width of 59 feet.



Project Scope

The Access Minneapolis Transportation Plan, adopted by City Council in 2009, provides guidance for the design of Hennepin Avenue. The scope of the 2020 reconstruction project provides an opportunity to move existing curb lines and design the street for current and future needs. Available right-of-way is limited, but the project will aim to provide the following design elements:

- Sidewalk area able to support pedestrian activities with space for planting and furnishing zones
- Space for enhanced transit stops compatible with future Arterial Bus Rapid Transit service
- Protected bikeway separated from motor vehicle traffic
- Roadway design that can maintain an acceptable level of service for transit and motor vehicles – Hennepin Avenue is assumed to remain as a two-way street

Public Works will be conducting a technical evaluation of Hennepin to understand where opportunities exist to move curb lines and improve the experience of pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users.

Project Schedule and Public Input

In order to submit a successful application for federal transportation funding, Public Works is planning to have a preferred street concept approved by City Council in May of 2016. Public Works will be engaging stakeholders in the winter and spring of 2016 to understand what design elements are important to consider for Hennepin Avenue. Should the project be awarded federal funding, there would be opportunities in 2017 or later for the public to provide input on specific design details.

- Winter/Spring 2016: Technical evaluation, public engagement and community meetings
- May of 2016: Seek City Council approval of preferred street corridor
- July of 2016: Submit application for federal transportation grant, through the Met Council
- 2017-2019: Detailed street design and engineering
- 2020: Program year for project construction, schedule and staging TBD

Contact: Simon Blenski, Minneapolis Public Works, 612-673-5012, simon.blenski@minneapolismn.gov

Website: www.minneapolismn.gov/cip/future/WCMSP-172270