

City of Minneapolis

Request for Committee Action

To: Transportation & Public Works
Date: 4/5/2016
From: Public Works Department
Prepared by: Allan Klugman, Senior Professional Engineer, Traffic and Parking Services
Presented by: Allan Klugman, Senior Professional Engineer, Traffic and Parking Services
File type: Action
Subcategory: Street Project

Subject:

Franklin Avenue (CSAH 5)/Cedar Avenue (CSAH 152) /Minnehaha intersection modifications

Description:

1. Approving the project layout, prepared by Hennepin County, for the Franklin Avenue (CSAH 5)/Cedar Avenue (CSAH 152) /Minnehaha intersection modifications.
2. Approving street operational changes for the following two blocks:
 - 20th Avenue South from Franklin Avenue to 9th Street S -- currently one-way northbound; change to two-way operation.
 - 9th Street South from 20th Avenue S to 21st Avenue S -- currently one-way eastbound; change to two-way operation.

Previous Actions:

None

Ward/Address:

Ward 6

Background/Analysis:

The Franklin/Cedar/Minnehaha area consists of a complex set of intersections with high traffic volumes and confusing movements. This has resulted in safety issues for all users of the system. In 2014 Hennepin County was planning to conduct a mill and overlay of Franklin Avenue from 16th Avenue to 21st Avenue, passing through this area. In order to address the crash history and to provide improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the area, the project was delayed while alternative plans were examined to address the issues in the area. Eventually the scope was expanded to include intersection realignment, signal reconstructions and the removal of a segment of Minnehaha Avenue.

Hennepin County staff developed the project layout through a process that involved approximately five meetings with a community work group to establish project goals and feasible alternatives. Staff from both CPED and Public Works participated in the work group. Also, the public engagement process included a significant amount of additional neighborhood and stakeholder outreach, including nearby residents, businesses and Fire Station Number 7. Public meetings included:

- Franklin Open Streets Events: August 2014 and 2015.
- Seward Neighborhood Community Development Committee, December 2014, January 2015, December 2015.

- January 26, 2016, Public Open House and Presentation at the SPOKES office, near 22nd Street and Minnehaha Avenue.
- Resident and Business Owner focus group meetings, January 17, 2016, February 5, 2016 and February 8, 2016.
- February 9, 2016, Neighborhood Presentation to the Seward Neighborhood Community Development Committee at the Matthews Community Center.
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee – multiple meetings 2014-2016.
- Bicycle Advisory Committee – multiple meetings 2014-2016.
- Hennepin County Bicycle Advisory Committee – multiple meetings 2014-2016.

The proposed layout is shown on the attached layout map. Features of the project layout include the following:

- Closure of Minnehaha Avenue north of Franklin Avenue for approximately 200 lineal feet and convert it to green space.
- Removal of the Franklin/Minnehaha traffic signal.
- Minnehaha Avenue south of Franklin Avenue intersects with only right turns in and right turns out.
- Create a new southbound to eastbound left turn lane from Cedar Avenue to 22nd Street and change corner radii on 22nd Street.
- Realignment of the Cedar Avenue/20th Avenue intersection.
- Realignment of westbound Franklin Avenue left turn lane to enhance turning vehicle safety.
- Reconstruct and replace the two existing traffic signals at Franklin/Cedar and Cedar/20th intersections.
- Establishment of new pedestrian refuge spaces by increasing the size of the Franklin Avenue median on the east side of the intersection and increasing the size of Cedar Avenue median on the south side of the intersection.
- Add off road shared use trails along Cedar Avenue north of Franklin Avenue and along Franklin Avenue between Cedar and Minnehaha Avenues.
- Lengthen the eastbound left turn bay from Franklin Avenue to Cedar Avenue.
- Mill and overlay of pavement along Franklin Avenue from 16th to 21st Avenues.
- Restripe to add on-street bike lanes along Franklin Avenue.

Street Operational Changes

In conjunction with the proposed roadway modification project, and in particular due to the closure of Minnehaha Avenue north of Franklin Avenue, it is recommended that the following streets be converted from the present one-way operation to two-way operation. These changes will improve the resulting circulation patterns to and from local uses. On both streets listed below the curb locations will not change and parking will not be impacted.

- 20th Avenue South from Franklin Avenue to 9th Street S: currently one-way northbound; recommend conversion to two-way.
- 9th Street South from 20th Avenue S to 21st Avenue S: currently one-way eastbound; recommend conversion to two-way

Next Steps

Subsequent to the above requested City Council approvals, Public Works will work with Hennepin County to develop the project cost needs and respective agreements such that the project can be bid and implemented this construction year, 2016. The current cost estimate for the improvements is \$946,000. Hennepin County's share is planned from their 5-year CIP "Pavement Plus" category.

County and City staff will be monitoring the area for traffic and truck volumes, speeds, travel patterns, and pedestrian and bicyclist counts. A before/after evaluation will be conducted and discussed with the neighborhoods and various stakeholder interest groups.

Public Works will work with Hennepin County to identify any further next steps needed.

Financial Review:

No financial impact.

Attachments:

1. Franklin/Cedar/Minnehaha layout and street operational changes.