

**TO:** Mayor and City Council (OCWS)  
**THROUGH:** Matt Fulton, City Manager  
**FROM:** PW & Parks Director/City Eng.  
**DATE:** September 26, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** Safe Routes to School Grant



City of West St. Paul

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** In 2015 the City applied for a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant for the installation of concrete sidewalk along the east side of Bidwell St. from Thompson Ave. to Butler Ave. The City was granted \$288,400 for construction of this project. The grant application estimated construction at \$360,500 and requires a 20% local match. The City is also required to pay 100% of preliminary engineering, easement acquisition and construction administration. Staff has hired Kimley-Horn as the consultant to perform preliminary engineering and navigate the federal process.

**DISCUSSION:** This is a very challenging corridor to retrofit a boulevard and concrete sidewalk in with regards to right-of-way, steep grades and existing mature trees. As a result, three design alternatives were put together for evaluation:

1. Install a 5-foot boulevard and 5-foot sidewalk behind existing curb.
  - a. Major impact to existing trees.
  - b. Requires extensive retaining walls.
  - c. Requires permanent and temporary easements.
2. Install at 7-foot sidewalk directly behind the existing curb.
  - a. Major impact to existing trees.
  - b. Requires retaining walls.
  - c. Requires permanent and temporary easements.
  - d. Causes problems with snow removal/storage.
3. Install new curb out in the existing road (4' to 8' out) and install a 5-foot boulevard and 5-foot sidewalk.
  - a. Reduces impact to trees.
  - b. Requires *No Parking* on the east side of Bidwell due to a narrower street.
  - c. Significantly reduces need for retaining walls.
  - d. Requires storm sewer modifications.
  - e. Requires few temporary easements.

For reference, attached are layouts of these three options for Segment B (Emerson Ave. to Logan Ave.).

Staff met with three of the main property owners on the project to discuss the three design alternatives. The two major properties between Thompson and Logan Avenue both like the idea of pushing out the curb into the road, minimizing impacts to trees, avoiding retaining walls and losing parking on their side of the road. A discussion with Heritage Middle School favored installing a 5-foot boulevard and 5-foot walk behind existing curb for the northernmost section along Charles Matson field. This would require removal of the

boulevard trees, but allow for parking to remain on Bidwell St. which is heavily needed during sporting events.

There are two blocks in between, Logan Ave. to Orme St., which are single family homes with landscaping and mature boulevard trees. For estimation purposes it is assumed that the option of bumping out the curb into the street to minimize impacts (tree removal and retaining wall installation) would be the preferred option in this area. Based on the options as stated above the estimated construction cost is \$700,000.

Estimated total project costs:

Preliminary Engineering	\$130,000 (Kimley-Horn contract)
Construction	\$700,000
Construction Admin./Insp./Testing	\$100,000 (future consultant contract)
Easement Acquisition/Attorney Fees	<u>\$ 30,000</u>
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$960,000

**STAFF REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION** This is an informational update with considerable cost revisions. Staff is looking for direction on whether to proceed with the public involvement process, easement acquisition and design in order to maintain our construction timeline. A public open house is tentatively scheduled for October 25, 2016.