

To: **Mayor and City Council**
Through: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**
From: **Ross Beckwith, Public Works & Parks Director/City Engineer**
Date: **February 24, 2020**

Thompson/Oakdale Bike & Pedestrian Feasibility Report Update

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At the January 13, 2020 City Council meeting the City accepted a \$30,000 Local Communities Grant from Dakota County. This grant was to fund a bicycle and pedestrian feasibility report along Thompson Ave. (Robert Street to Trunk Hwy 52) and Oakdale Avenue (Wentworth Avenue to Butler Avenue). The City hired the engineering firm Kimley-Horn to prepare the feasibility report. Dakota County staff have been involved as well since these are both county roads.

City staff recently met with St. Croix Lutheran High School and the Living Longer Stronger group to discuss the study and listen to their bike/ped concerns along these corridors. The Park and Recreation Committee also had a discussion about the different options. A public Open House is scheduled for 5pm-7pm on March 5 at the St. George Orthodox Church, which is along the corridor. Feedback from all of these meetings will be used to help guide the feasibility report. The completion of the feasibility report will provide facility recommendations and costs estimates needed for grant applications.

Staff will be presenting different sidewalk, trail and bike lane options to Council along with the pros and cons of each.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Project costs will be dependent on the facilities that are ultimately recommended. Two big costs will be right-of-way and retaining walls, which will vary based on each option. Staff is planning to submit for the upcoming Metropolitan Council Regional Solicitation grant this spring, which if successful would pay for a percentage of the construction costs. Since both of these corridors are on county roads, Dakota County would also be a funding partner.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is looking for feedback from City Council on the options presented.