

To: **Mayor and City Council**  
Through: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**  
From: **Ross Beckwith, Public Works & Parks Director/City Engineer**  
Date: **March 23, 2020**

## **Thompson/Oakdale Bike & Pedestrian Feasibility Report Update**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

At the January 13, 2020 City Council meeting the City accepted a \$30,000 State Health Improvement Program (SHIP) grant through 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.

At the OCWS meeting on February 24, 2020 a presentation was given showing options of bike lanes, multi-use trail and sidewalks for these two corridors. City, county and consultant staff have also met with the following groups to present these options and gain valuable feedback:

- St. Croix Lutheran Church on January 22, 2020
- Living Longer Stronger on February 20, 2020
- Park and Recreation Committee on February 11 and March 10, 2020
- Open Council Work Session February 24, 2020
- Open House at St. George Orthodox Church on March 5, 2020
- Responsible Owners and Managers Association (ROMA) on March 12, 2020
- Feedback from the Oaks of West St. Paul apartments on March 16, 2020

Feedback from all of these meetings has led to recommended options for both corridors. On Thompson Avenue, the recommendation is to install an asphalt multi-use trail on the south side and a concrete sidewalk on the north side between Robert Street and Trunk Highway 52. On Oakdale Avenue, the recommendation is to install an asphalt multi-use trail on the east side and a concrete sidewalk on the west side from Wentworth Avenue to Butler Avenue. The Park and Recreation Committee unanimously approved these options at their March 10, 2020 meeting.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Attached is a presentation of where this study is to date including estimated costs for the recommended options.

Staff is currently working on the Metropolitan Council Regional Solicitation Grant, which was recently extended from an April 16 to May 15, 2020 deadline. If successful, this grant would fund a percentage of the construction costs. Since both of these corridors are on county roads, Dakota County would also be a funding partner.

Dakota County analyzed the competitiveness of applying for an Oakdale Avenue trail/sidewalk grant application versus an Oakdale/Thompson Avenue grant. Based on the analysis, which looks at population and employment within each corridor, the application would be more competitive as a lower cost Oakdale Avenue only application versus a higher cost Oakdale/Thompson Avenue application.

Moving forward, there is discussion about Thompson Avenue becoming a turn back road from the county to the city and a future roundabout project at Thompson/Oakdale. One or both of these events could lend itself to completing the trail/sidewalk on Thompson Avenue.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

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

Attachment: Thompson/Oakdale Bike Ped Update - Presentation