

SUMMARY OF ENGINEERING RECOMMENDATIONS

Department of Public Works Maryland Avenue and Payne Avenue Intersection Widening/Channelization Property Acquisition

Report Prepared – September 22, 2010
Public Hearing – January 5, 2011

PROJECT

The City of Saint Paul Department of Public Works proposes to acquire commercial properties at 1190 and 1194 Payne Avenue which are located at the southeast corner of Maryland Avenue and Payne Avenue intersection as a first step to reconstruct and widen Maryland Avenue in order to install left turn lanes and left turn signals at the Payne Avenue intersection.

INITIATING ACTION

This project is being initiated by the Department of Public Works in coordination with Ramsey County Public Works. Because of long standing safety concerns and a high crash rate at this intersection, St. Paul Public Works requested that Ramsey County Public Works apply for federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds for widening and installation of the left turn lanes. The proposal was funded and federal funding for the construction is programmed for 2014. This project is similar to other projects completed in the past at critical intersections along Maryland Avenue and White Bear Avenue.

It is proposed to complete the widening for the left turn lanes on the south side of Maryland. At the southeast corner of the intersection, the St. Paul Parks Department is in process of developing preliminary plans for the Payne Maryland Town Square Project. The widening and property acquisition for the Maryland project will impact the Town Square Project. We propose to complete the property acquisition at the southeast corner in advance of the 2014 Maryland widening project in order to coordinate both projects. In order to proceed, we need City Council approval of the Maryland Avenue Property Acquisition.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Maryland Avenue is a Ramsey County State Aid Highway. The roadway is 4 lanes and carries over 20,000 vehicles per day. There is a high number of left turn related crashes at the Payne/Maryland Intersection.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

This Final Order does not authorize construction of the widening and signalization project which is programmed for 2014. The Final Order does authorize the City to proceed with acquisition of the properties at 1190 and 1194 Payne Avenue. It is proposed to complete this property acquisition in 2011 to coordinate with the Town Square project. Between Edgerton and Maryland, additional property would be acquired in 2013 prior to the construction in 2014.

A separate Final Order will be processed in the future for the construction project, which will include roadway reconstruction widening, installation of left turn lane, reconstruction of traffic signal at Maryland/Payne with left turn signal, new sidewalks, street lighting, and boulevard trees.

ALTERNATES

To do nothing would be inconsistent with the City's commitment to improve safety.

POSITIVE BENEFITS

The City can coordinate the property acquisition with the Town Square Project construction schedule. The intersection improvement will improve safety, improve capacity and access to Payne Avenue and improve the aesthetics at this intersection.

ADVERSE EFFECTS

The project will require acquisition of property. City and County are committed to relocate the current property owner and business to a location within the neighborhood.

TIME SCHEDULE

It is proposed to complete this property acquisition in 2011 to coordinate with the Town Square project. Between Edgerton and Maryland, additional property on the south side of Maryland would be acquired in 2013 prior to the construction in 2014.

COST ESTIMATE AND FUNDING

The total estimated cost of the acquisition of 1190 and 1194 Payne Avenue is \$1,540,000. The cost of the right of way acquisition will be shared between Ramsey County and Saint Paul. A strip of the 1190/1194 property along Maryland will be used for roadway and the remainder will become Parks property to be used for the Town Square Project. In addition, the County will need to acquire a strip of Parks property on the south side of Maryland east of Payne Avenue for the widening. The City and County are in the process of developing an agreement that would specify cost participation of the respective parties.

Based on estimates, and discussions to date, estimated cost share is as follows:

Ramsey County - \$780,000
City of St. Paul - \$760,000

In addition, the County does not have funding for the acquisition budgeted until 2013. Under the agreement, the City will front end the funds and then County will repay the County's share in 2013.

Public Works will develop the cost sharing agreement with Ramsey County and any necessary budget resolutions and bring back to City Council for approval.

SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, contact the Project Engineer, Paul St. Martin, at 266-6118.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Public Works feels that this is a necessary and worthwhile project, and the Engineering Recommendation is for approval of the Final Order.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul St. Martin
Public Works