

SUMMARY OF ENGINEERING RECOMMENDATIONS

Snelling Avenue Median Project

City Project No. 17-P-1423

State Aid Project No. 164-010-068

Report Prepared – 10/26/16

Public Hearing – 1/04/17

PROJECT

The project will install medians and dedicated left turn lanes on **Snelling Avenue from Randolph Avenue to Highland Parkway** and re-stripe lanes to include dedicated left turn lanes from **Highland Parkway to Ford Parkway**. The project is proposed to improve safety and reconnect the neighborhoods that are split by this higher volume four lane roadway that has no dedicated left turn lanes.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Snelling Avenue is a 4 lane street with parking on both sides. Pedestrians have difficulty crossing the four lanes of traffic at the non-signalized intersections along Snelling Avenue. Left turning vehicles from shared through left lanes often cause disruptions in traffic flow, resulting in abrupt stopping or lane changing by the following vehicles.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

It is proposed to install 8' wide, landscaped center medians to provide a safe refuge for pedestrians and allow them to cross the street one vehicle direction at a time. The center medians would also limit left turn movements to intersections, thereby improving traffic flow on Snelling Avenue.

On-street parking will remain on the west side of Snelling Avenue. Parking will be removed on the east side. Some parking bays will be constructed on the east side. Existing parking bays will remain.

ALTERNATES

This project was requested by the Highland District Council and Council Ward 3. An alternative would be to leave Snelling Avenue as it is.

POSITIVE BENEFITS The project would improve traffic flow along Snelling Avenue and increase pedestrian safety. Trees planted in the medians would enhance the aesthetics of the avenue.

ADVERSE EFFECTS

Normal problems associated with construction such as noise, dust, reduced access to the neighborhood, and general disruption will be present. Parking will be temporarily banned on both sides of Snelling during construction. Parking will be permanently

banned on most of the east side of Snelling. Some parking bays will be constructed on the east side.

EFFECTS ON TREES

Boulevard trees will remain in place. New trees will be planted in the medians where feasible.

TIME SCHEDULE

The project will begin in the summer of 2017 and will be completed by the fall of 2017.

COST ESTIMATE

Construction	\$ 1,768,000
Engineering	<u>\$ 442,000</u>
PROJECT TOTAL	\$ 2,210,000

ESTIMATED FINANCING

MnDOT Cooperative Agreement Funding	\$ 710,000
8-80 Vitality Funding	<u>\$ 1,500,000</u>
PROJECT TOTAL	\$ 2,210,000

The costs of this project will NOT be assessed.

SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, contact the Project Engineer, Barb Mundahl, at 266-6112.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Public Works has ranked this a high priority project and the Engineering Recommendation is for approval of the project and financing.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Mundahl
Public Works